

A graphic novel by
ARNOLD ARRE

THE MYTHOLOGICAL CLASS

Where Philippine
Legends Become Reality

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TUTTLE Publishing
Tokyo | Bristol, Vermont | Singapore



*For my family, dearest friends,
and all of you who have supported
my work through the years.
And for Cynthia, my miracle.*

"This is a book of wonder. Arnold Arce conjures up the kind of spell that needs nothing but the alchemy of words and images to create a story for an entire world to fit in. A classic that can be read and reread with growing delight."³⁸

— **ERWIN ROMULO**,
Inspector Philippine Culture in *Class*

"A modern Filipino literary classic, Arnold is a true inspiration to his fellow comic creators and fans."³⁹

— **LEIBEL FRANCIS YU**,
Maya's Comics Artist of "Avenger"
and "Secret Tomorrow"

"It's been almost a decade since I last read 'The Mythology Class,' and upon rereading it, I found myself once again laughing at Bob and Geo's antics, getting crushed on Lisa and Lani, feeling sorry for Gino, being laig about Kuhn and Maki, and yes, even learning to love Misha and Reg. I always knew Arnold was amazing at crafting an epic tale that deserves its place among our legends, but I'd forgotten just how great he was at making characters you feel for, love, and actually miss."

I think it's high time for a sequel, Mr. Arce."⁴⁰

— **QUARK HENARES**, *Diary* of "Rakem" and "Kiko"

"I could not put down this book the first time I read it. Even though it was gift given me, it felt like a surprise, a real find. My very own treasure!"

You have to read "The Mythology Class" and discover that the supernatural stories which you heard as a kid and dreamt and wondered about are alive and kicking butt in Arnold Arce's storytelling."⁴¹

— **BUDDY ZABALA**,
Buddy of The Lani and Lanielani

"It's starting to realize how fully formed a cartoonist Arnold Arce already was when he was doing 'The Mythology Class.' Though he has continued to refine his technique and storytelling skills since, the hallmarks of his work are already present: the ambitious scope, the humor and warmth of the characters, and the sheer imagination on display with his expressive line art. An inspiring work filled in overflowing with ideas."⁴²

Writer/Editor: **RAMON DE VEYRA**
(*"Ang Nanggatal"*)

"Arce's imagination and creativity soar to dizzying heights. More than a decade since its first publication, 'The Mythology Class' remains potent and exhilarating. Beyond the narrative, it is a vibrant attempt to reconnect the modern Filipino with his or her ancient roots. These are our heroes and myths raging against the dying of the light—a nd, boy, what a battle to behold!"⁴³

— **JERROLD TAROG**, *Diary* of "Aeneas" and "Savior Year"

"Nung nasa ka ang 'The Mythology Class' ni Arnold Arce, nakita ko talaga ang loyangyarihan ng komiks, at ang loyangyarihan ng naglalayundang kwento sa pagkandag paraan.

Ito do sa mga librong pinakamabahal ko, nakapagbigay inspirasyon sa mga libro sa malalapit na naglalawte ko at sobra ko ito.

Hindi lang sya kan kumataag pagkatapos mo nabasa, okay ka na; ko yung tipong mapapalig ito, sa mga sarap magagat Filipino, ang sarap magagat ko, ang sarap magagat ko, ang sarap malalamang, ang sarap malaman na marami pa tayong nasa kalamang at mapapamahagi sa sangkawayan."

MANIX ABRERA

Creator of "Eliodoro Lirio" and "11" & "14" comic series

"The Mythology Class" is better than any textbook I read in school about myths and demons. It's like a college-level 'Monster Squad.' The fact that Arce can enlighten and entertain while both deconstructing and reinventing these fables is a magical talent. I need to see this series as a bunch of movies, STAT."

MARIE JANORA,
Director of "Adg. Nasyala"

"The tragedy of the Philippines is that more money is invested in politics than literature. Arnold Arce's 'The Mythology Class' can and will shape a future generation more than any city ordinance can—if only more will encounter this book. What a stroke of luck you have in your hands a reprint. Buy two more and give it to random kids you see. Make this your mission and charge it under 'nation building.'"

DANG BADOY
Friend of both Ed Philippines

"Arnold Arce is one of the most imaginative storytellers today. You get a sense of his vast creativity in 'The Mythology Class,' his first graphic novel, one that captures the Filipino inclination of friends discovering the spirit world together that still rings true today. Arnold went on to write more graphic novels, make animated films (and win awards for both), and inspire people.

What makes his work so compelling is his knack for laying out the little dramas of real life amidst the most fantastic of settings. His work reminds us to be kind, to love and fight for what you truly deem to forgive yourself and others, because we're all human.

The reason 'The Mythology Class' still resonates today is because we all have friends, and no matter how old we are, we are still discovering that the world is a beautiful and mysterious place, and more than cartoons and dibalangs and what have you, it's the time we spend with our barkada that makes life exciting."

YVETTE TAN, author of "Mama the Great" and "Koko"

WHAT IS THE MYTHOLOGY CLASS?



It's not just a thoroughly enchanting, uniquely Filipino graphic novel. This is what happens when an artist says, "To heck with what everyone says about what should or shouldn't be done, or how big or how small one can dream... I am doing my thing, my way." And well, somehow, he did it.

"The Mythology Class" was a work plainly done with no compromises, no limits and no details spared. Amado is a storyteller who never dreams small. He dreams worlds first, then focuses toward to find the stories clogging in the crowds. That's how epic yet how pastoral this book is.

And this is a work that impresses from every angle. From the meticulous panels of hand-drawn art and hand-lettered dialogue, to pages crisscrossed with detail, emotion and movement to full-page visions of whimsical fantasy, you can feel the creator's exuberance and energy as he tells his tale. A tale told so earnestly, so vividly and purely, I could practically feel the night wind in my face as we chased a fantastic burst of legend down a highway or witnessed the stench of demon breath as beings of primal darkness revealed under a murky, rain-drenched sky.

In this book is a Manila based with Old Magic, with as much wonder and discovery as there is danger and slinking-do. So grab on tight and get ready for a ride.

So many years after it was first cast, the magic is still there and just as strong as ever.

MARCO DIMAANO

Quezon City, October 26, 2014





Enter Arnold. A few days or weeks ago. He was either traveling or playing games or what if – coming up with scenarios in his head of different Arnold parallels – in verses, regular folk like you and me suddenly finding themselves on unusual paths.

I distinctly remember one night along E. Nalpas Street in Malabo, Arnold was drawing caricatures for some cause or event. I forgot. What I did remember was that it cost ₱50.00 for one and my dearest friend Frida told me “You holding on to those. This is going to be worth something in the future” (Or something like that.) I remembered that because she was so certain Arnold would use and continue to amaze and fly with his chalk.

A few years later, in 1991, Arnold came out with the first issue of “The Mythology Class.” In 2005 he released the collected edition of all four issues. Arnold has done other comic books / graphic novel titles, animated shorts and album covers. A lot of which have won awards.

I am only too happy to be writing the introduction to the 2014 re-release of the “The Mythology Class” omnibus. “The Mythology Class” is a work that celebrates much friendship, Philippine myth, legends and folkloric magic, imagination and dreaming.

It has a few hints in it of “Alice in Wonderland,” “The Phantom Tollbooth” and “The Lord of the Rings.” A bunch of allegorists are drawn into a fantastic quest and they’re not the same again after they return to the “real world.”

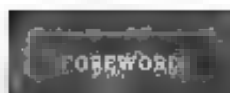
However, there is always a little magic in the “real world” – in certain people we meet, in books and “amused” sudden remembrance, folklore, myths and technological advancement of the world we live in.

Arnold Arne seems to think so.

KAREN KUNAWICZ

Writer, Artist, Phila.





I was 15 years ago when I first held a copy of *The Mythology Class*. Back then it came out as four oversized volumes. It was quite unlike anything local libraries' readers were running into with at the time. In 1999 the new Pinoy comics industry (if yet publishers were not 12 years old). All of us readers were still polishing our skills learning the "art" of looking into comic books that you thought were good. Then Arnold here showed *"The Mythology Class"* and it was like a gigantic leap forward, and showed us all the true meaning of "good".

I knew Arnold was a talented dude when I first met him. It wasn't detail-oriented like me and other artists. Detail, of course, was what we excelled in because it was a crutch. We tried to hide our errors of drawing in a mass of cross-hatching hoping nobody would notice. But even back then Arnold concentrated on drawing things right with just the right amount of detail. That spoke of an artistic maturity that many of us were yet to achieve.

Now in 2014 comes a brand new collected edition of *"The Mythology Class"*. And it comes at a perfect time. It's time to show a new generation of comic book creators what a good comic book is. Look at the art then, he says. Look at how Arnold disassembles his words and illustrates how he builds and breaks apart every element to create a unique reading experience.

"The Mythology Class" demonstrates that Arnold is more than just a talented artist—he is also an excellent and intelligent writer who knows fully well how to combine his ideas into one comprehensive novel.

With this book, Arnold proves himself as a true super hero's dream. It has everything there for a good comic story. One, I tried to smoothen you just can't put down. I read the four individual volumes again over the last day and it completely expressed me from beginning to end, furiously turning the pages wanting to know what happens next. Two.



It must have characters that stand alive with their own unique voices. During the time I was reading it, Tala, Bianca, Ray, Misha, Kaida, Gina and the rest of the gang became living beings in my mind. I felt convinced that somewhere, somehow, these characters were real, living and breathing. When the book ended, I felt utterly sad that I won't ever see these characters again.

Arnold also knows how to visually present a story in a compelling and exciting way. There's a chase scene here which is probably the best chase scene ever in the history of Disney comics. There are pages in this book that build up to splash pages that simply take your breath away. There are epic cinematic moments of visual triumph that seem much larger than the printed page. I won't be specific, but there is a scene that happens after this little bit with a helicopter which demonstrates such a moment. As I read it, I felt my heart soar and I felt little tears forming around my eyes. It's an intense and beautiful scene. In my mind, was throwing curse words at Arnold for making me feel this way like no other comics creator ever had.

You have no idea how lucky you are if you are reading this book for the first time. You are in for a reading experience quite unlike you've ever had before. Even though this is a fifteen year old story, it still remains as fresh and as exciting as it did in 1999.

I'm very excited to see "The Mythology Class" back in circulation after having been out of print for so many years. Many Disney comics readers today may no longer be familiar with it, completely unaware of how good it is, and how much of a juggernaut Arnold is as a comics creator. It's time to show that Arnold stands among the very best this country has to offer.

I hope this book stays in print this time!

GERRY ALANGULAN

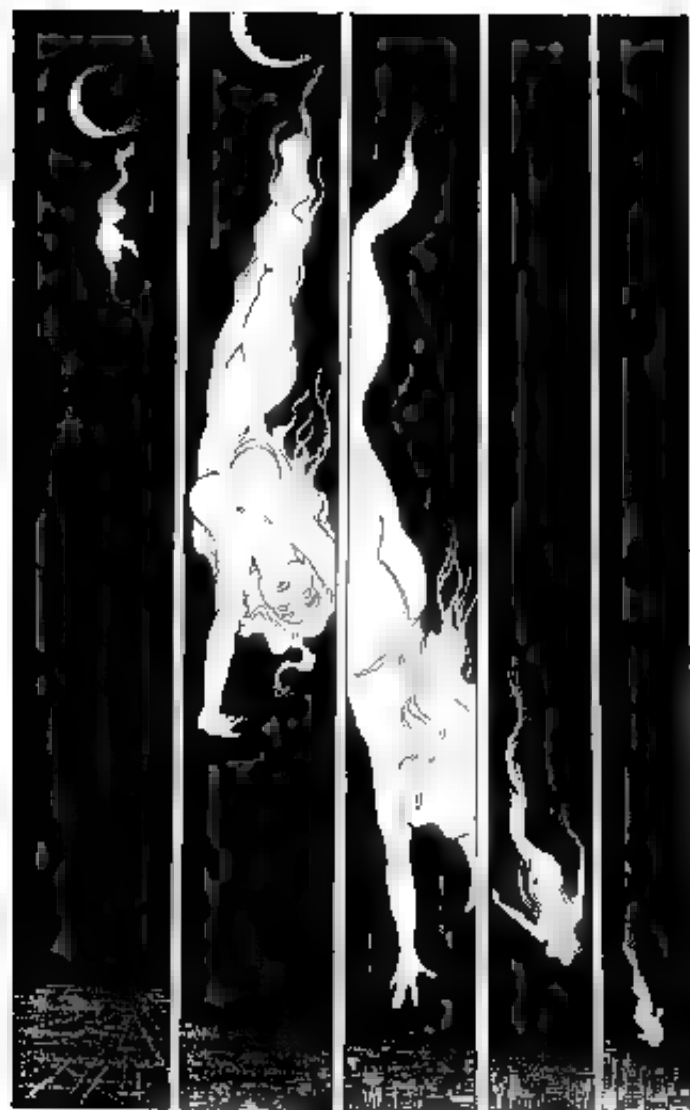
San Francisco Bay Area, March 28, 2017



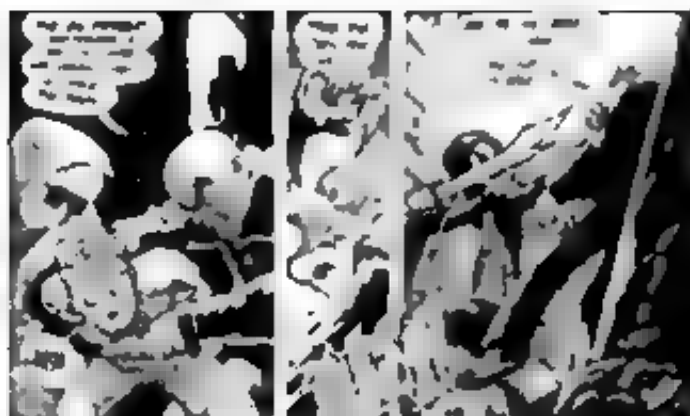




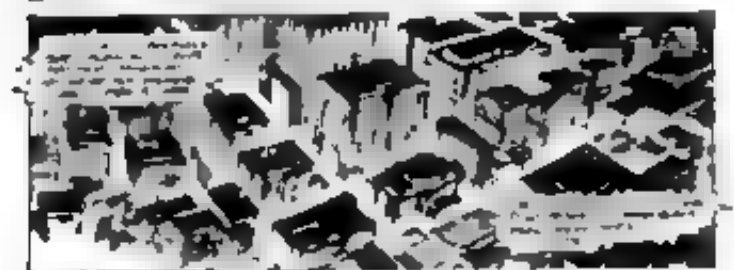
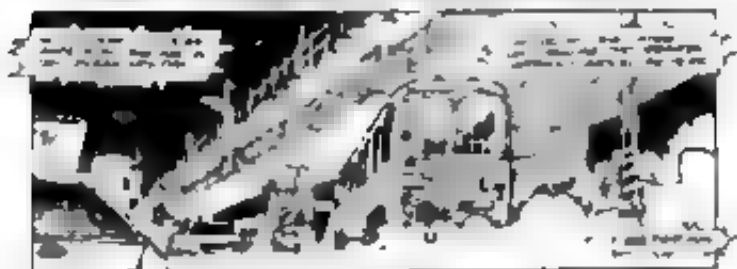
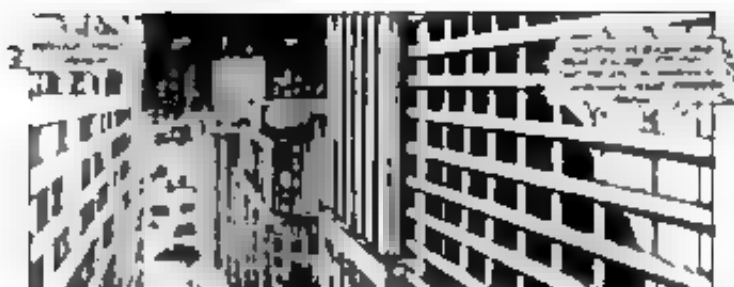


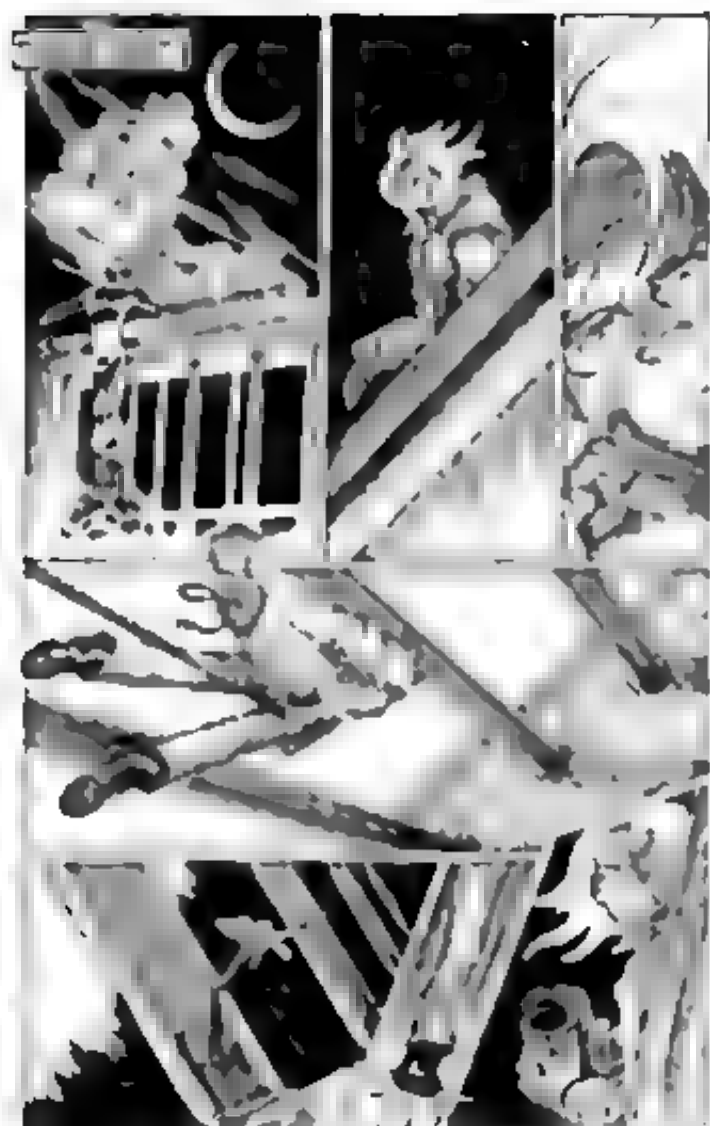






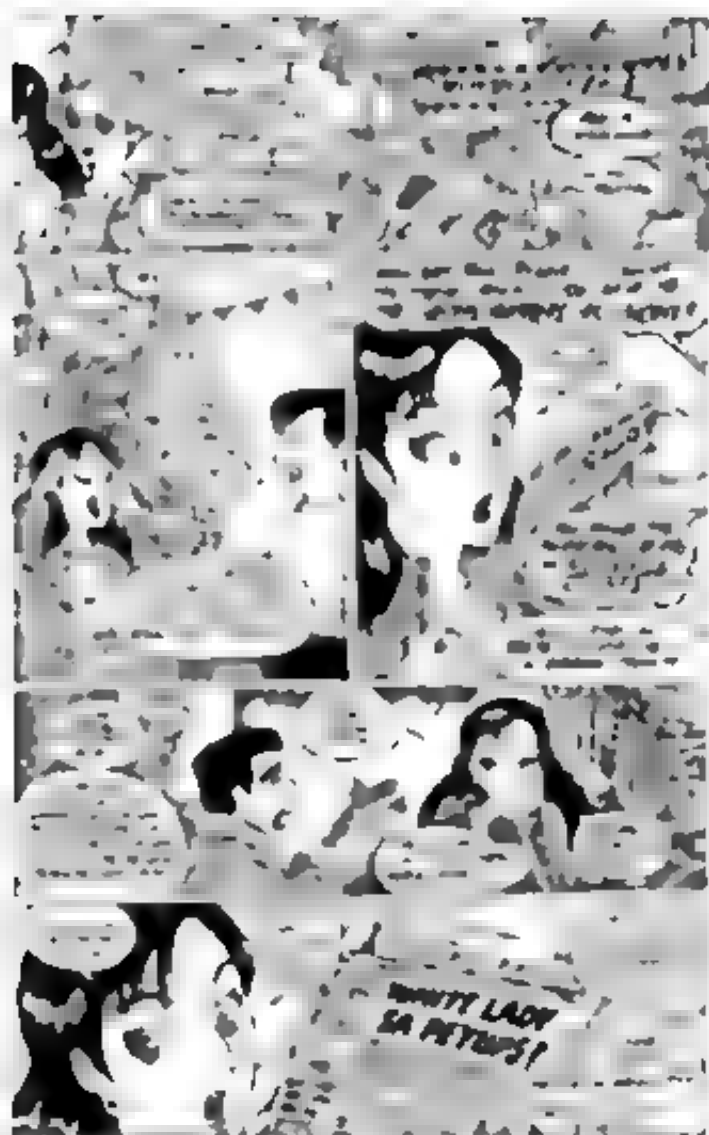




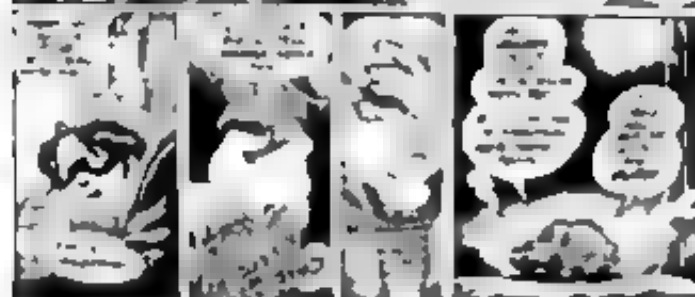
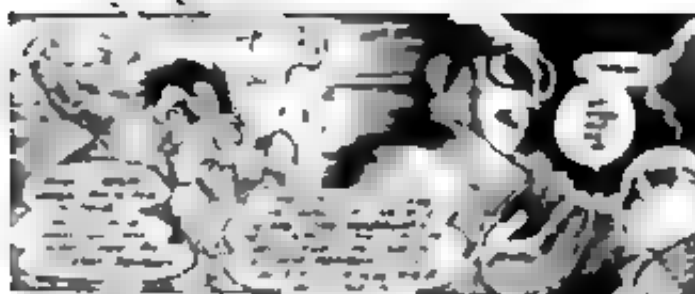


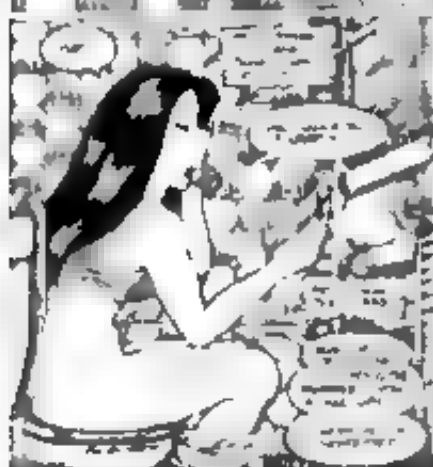










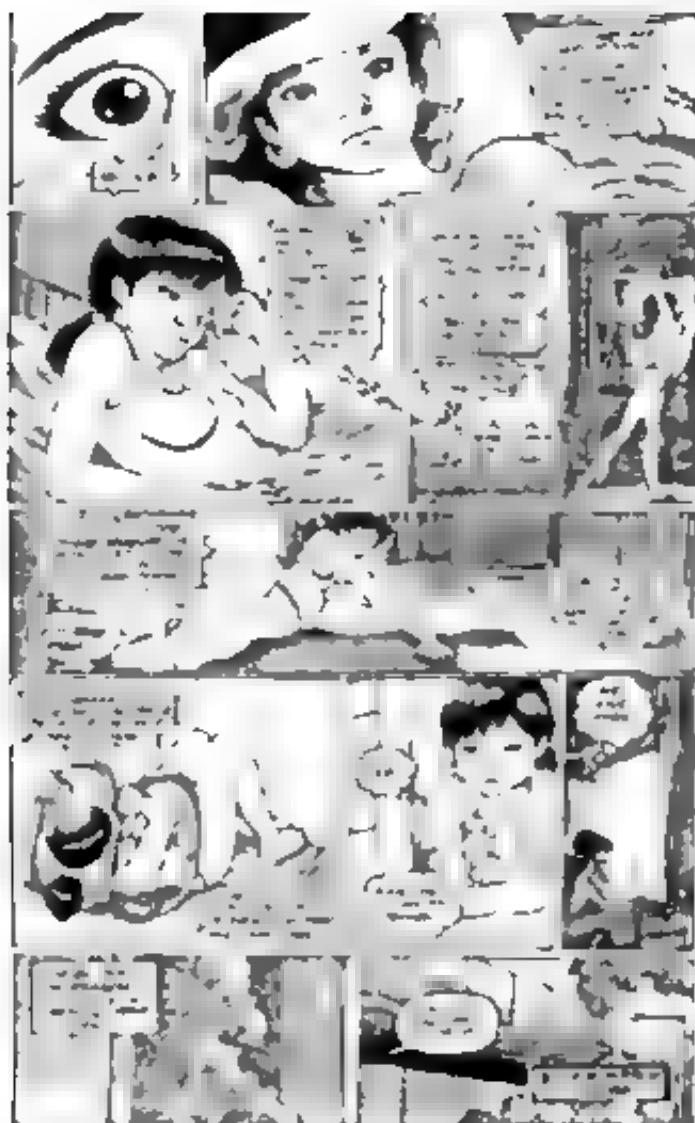


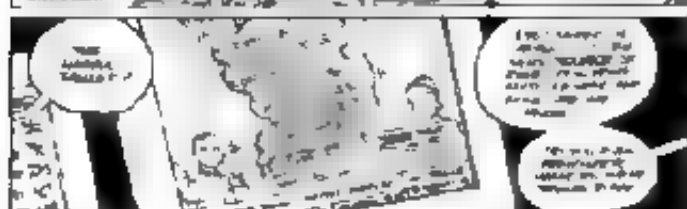


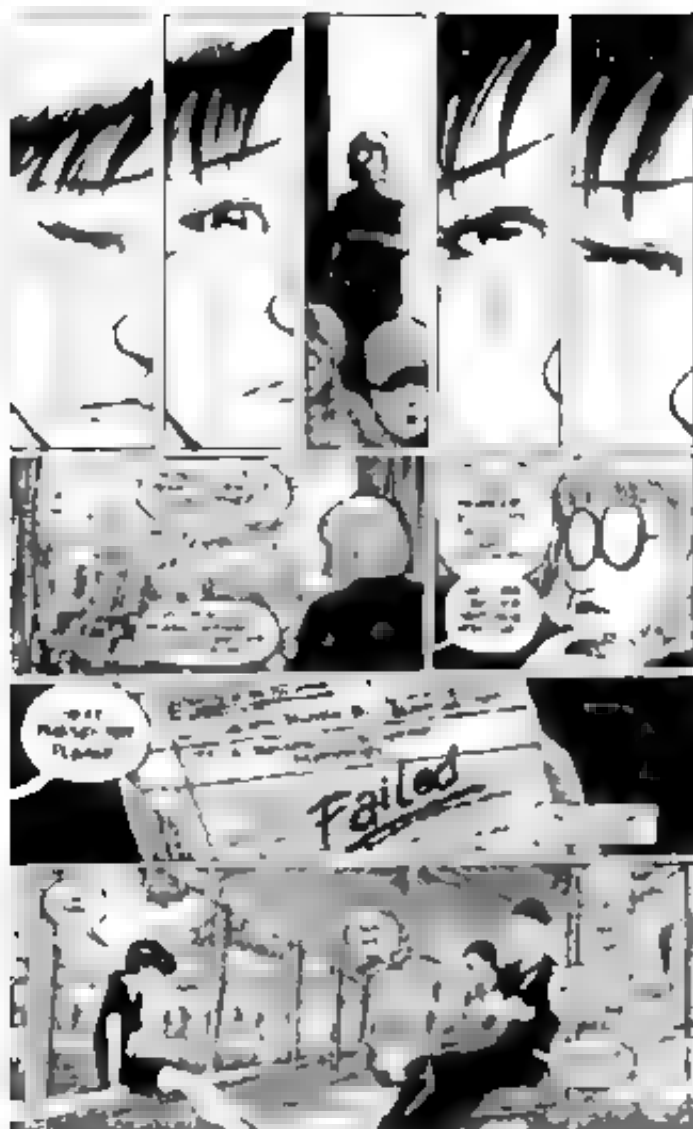


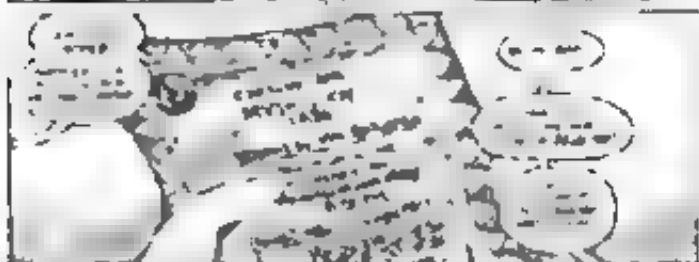
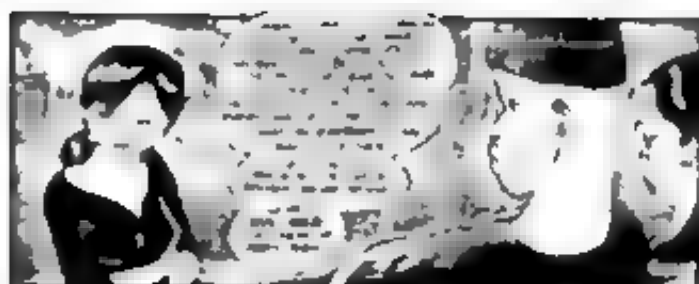


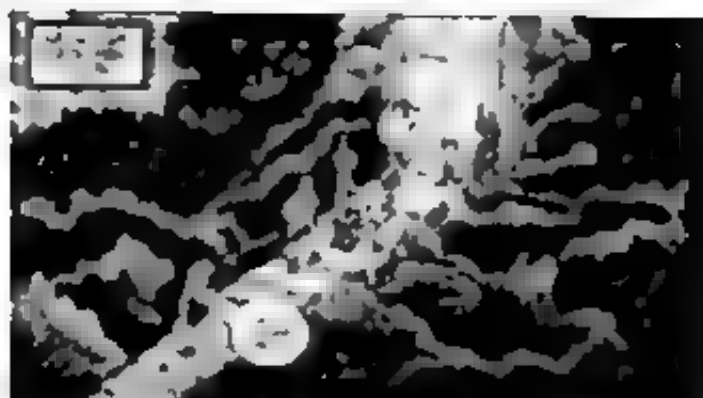




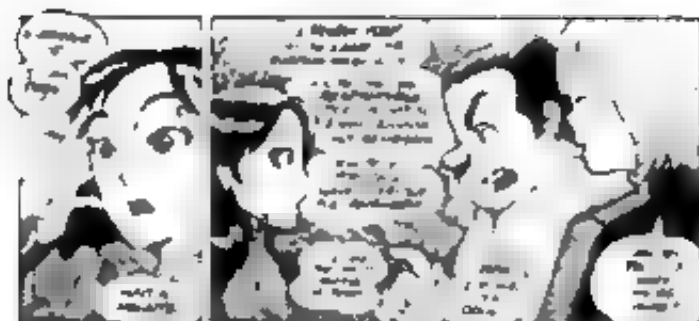












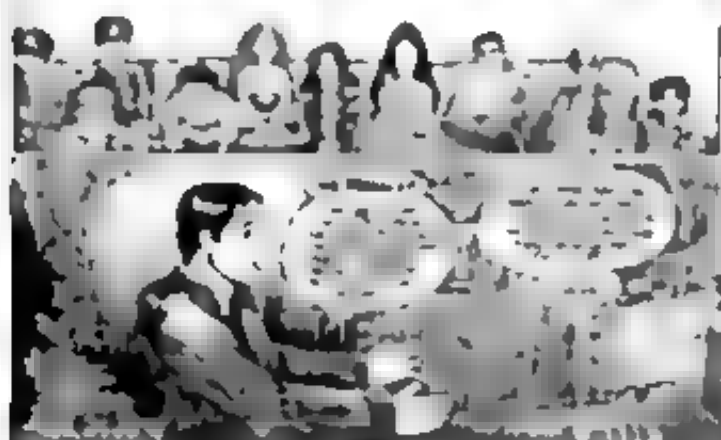
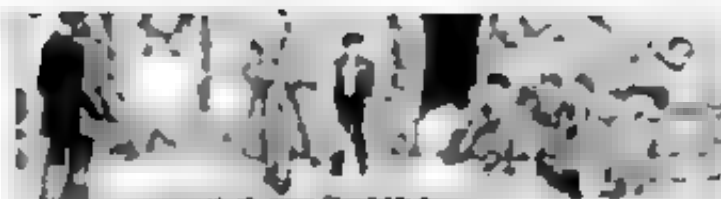










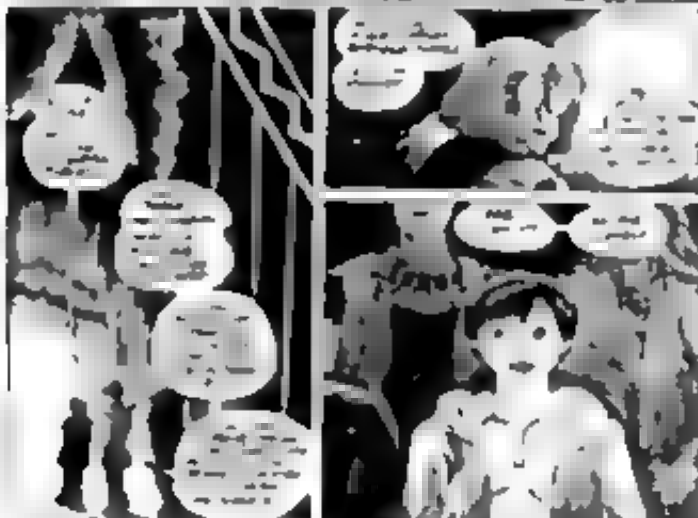
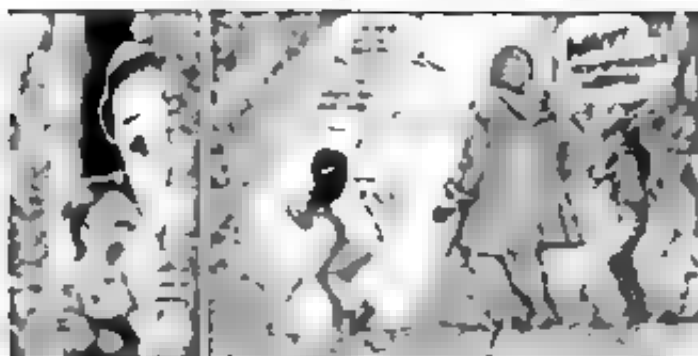


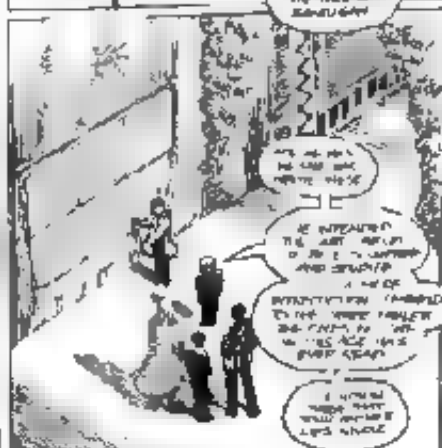
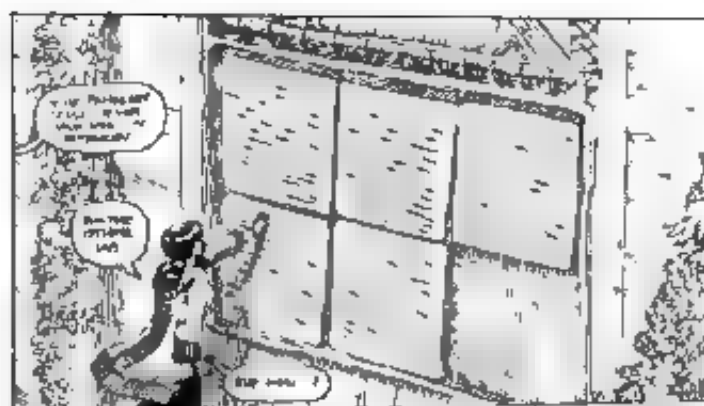


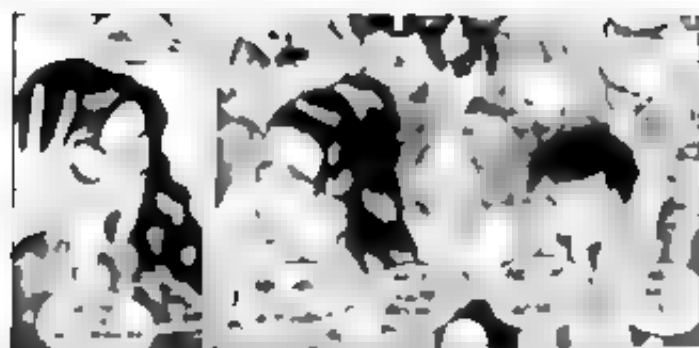




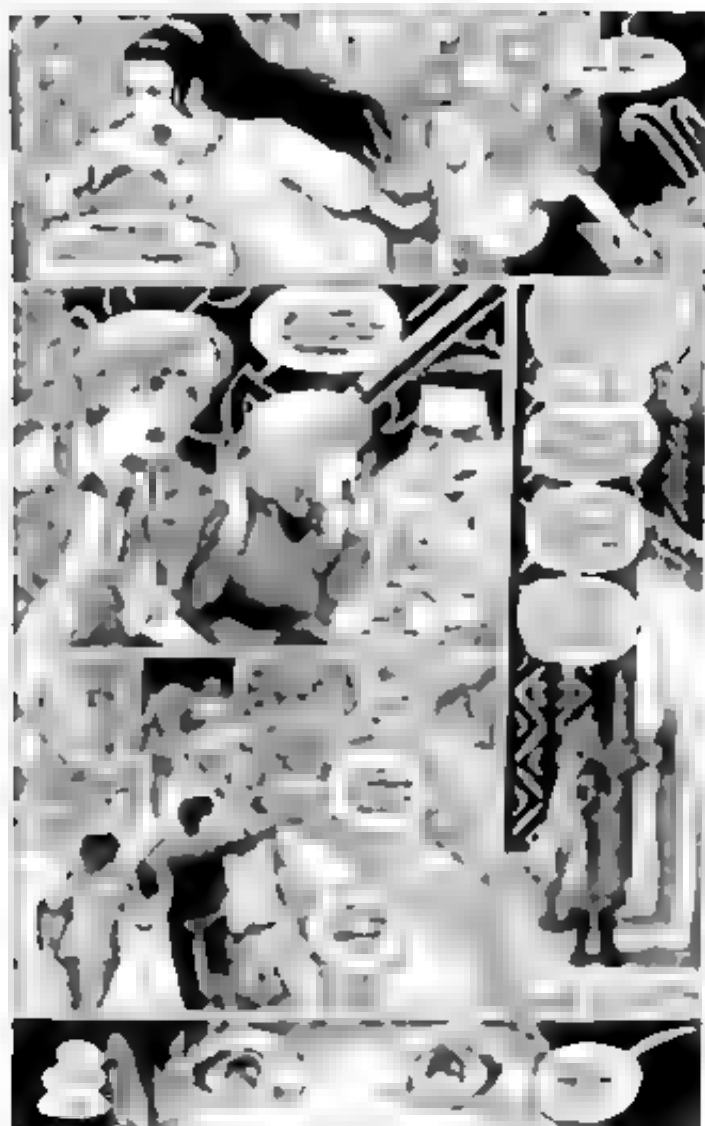




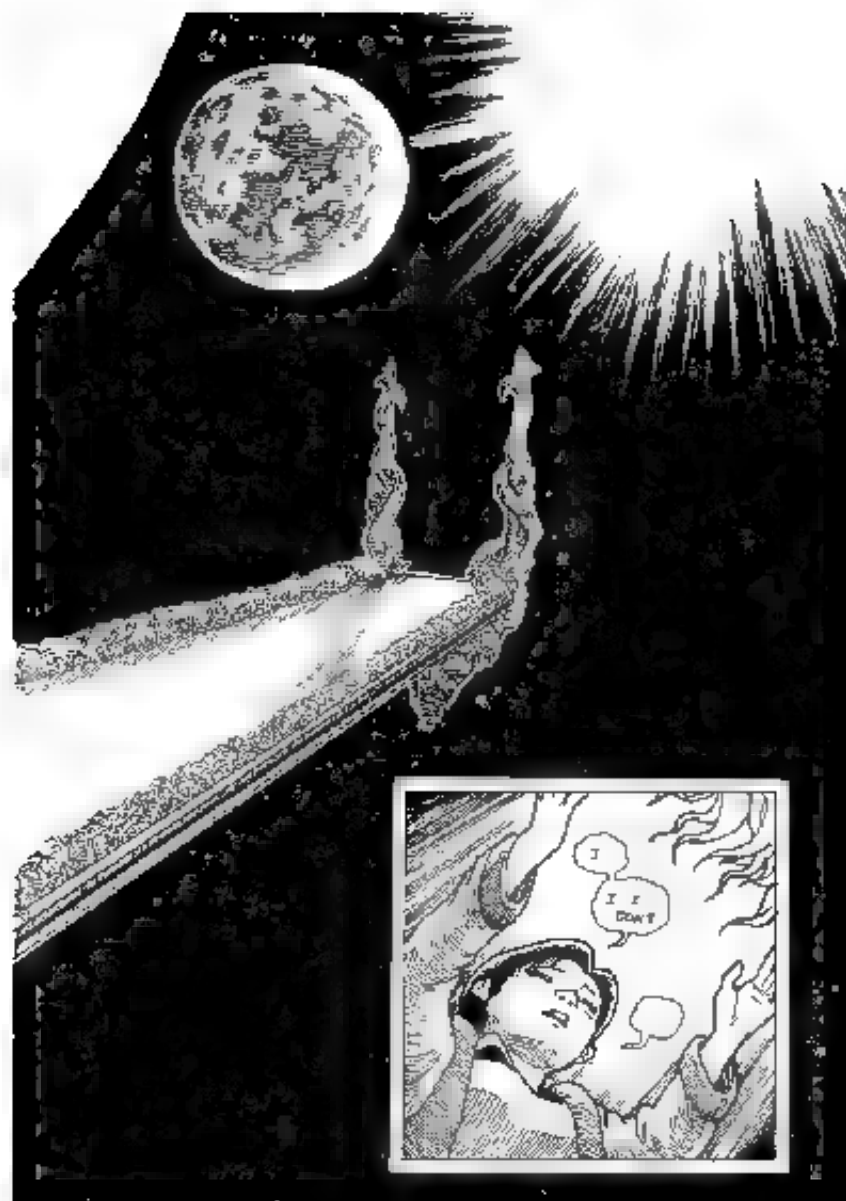




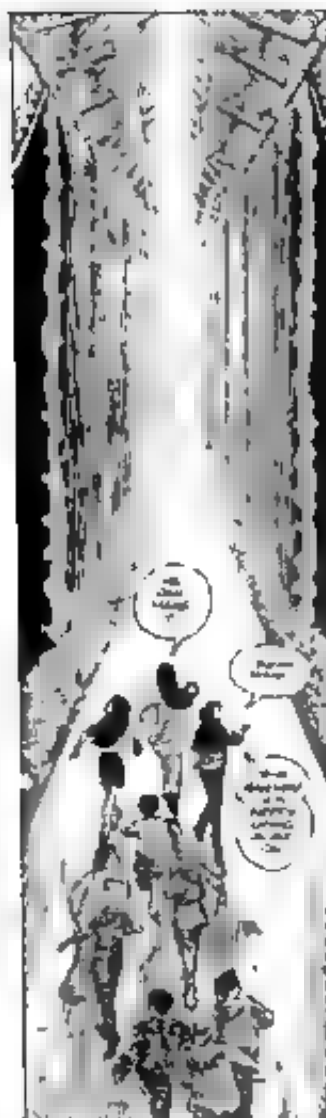


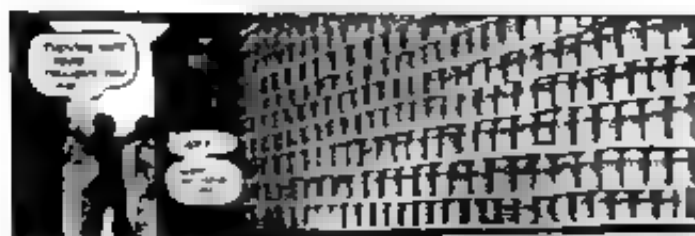












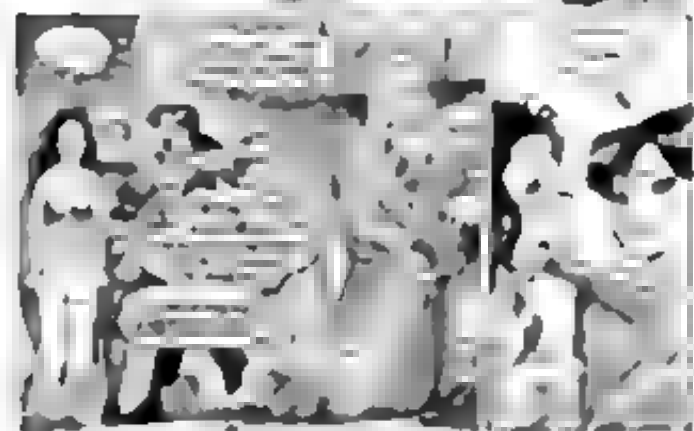




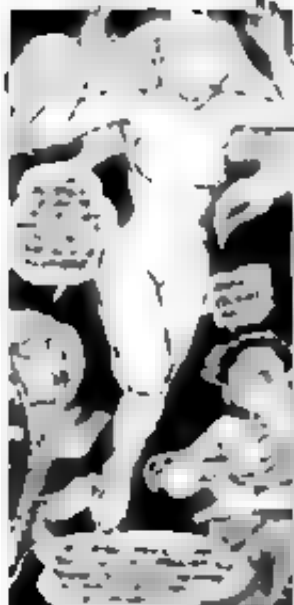


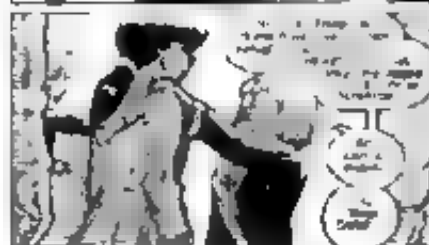


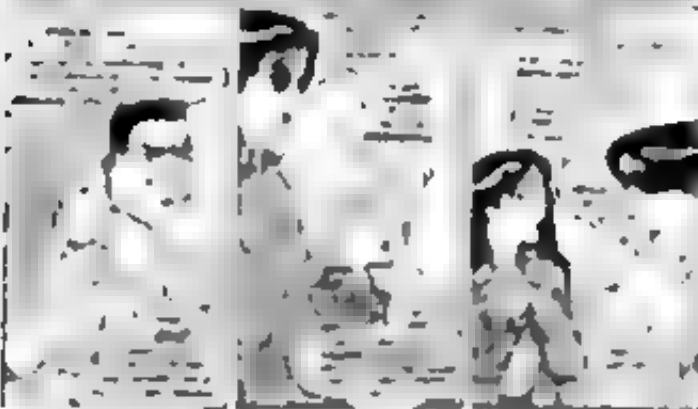
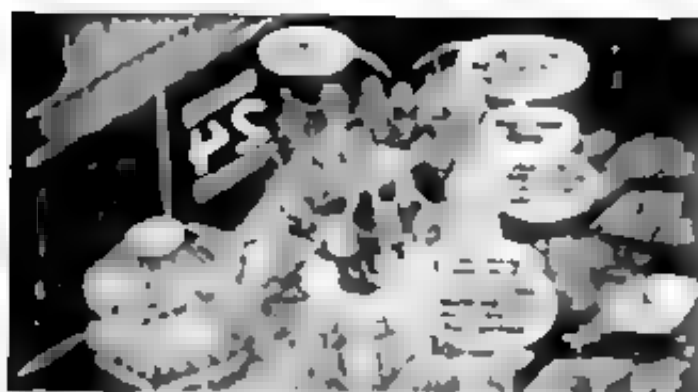
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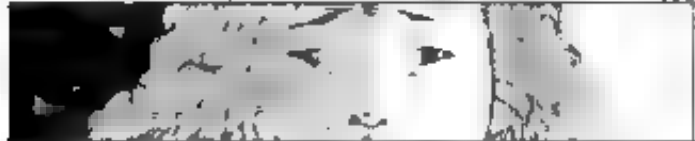
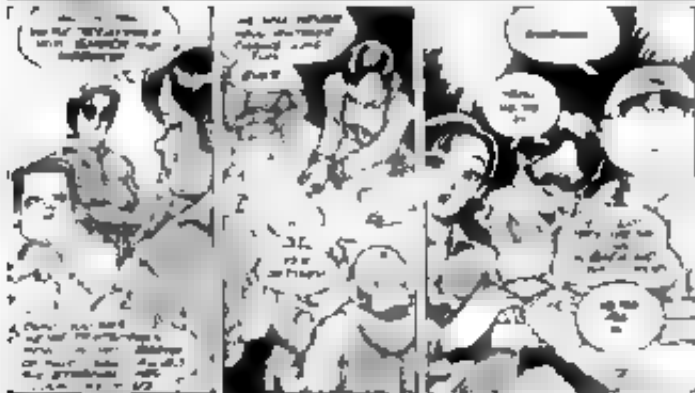


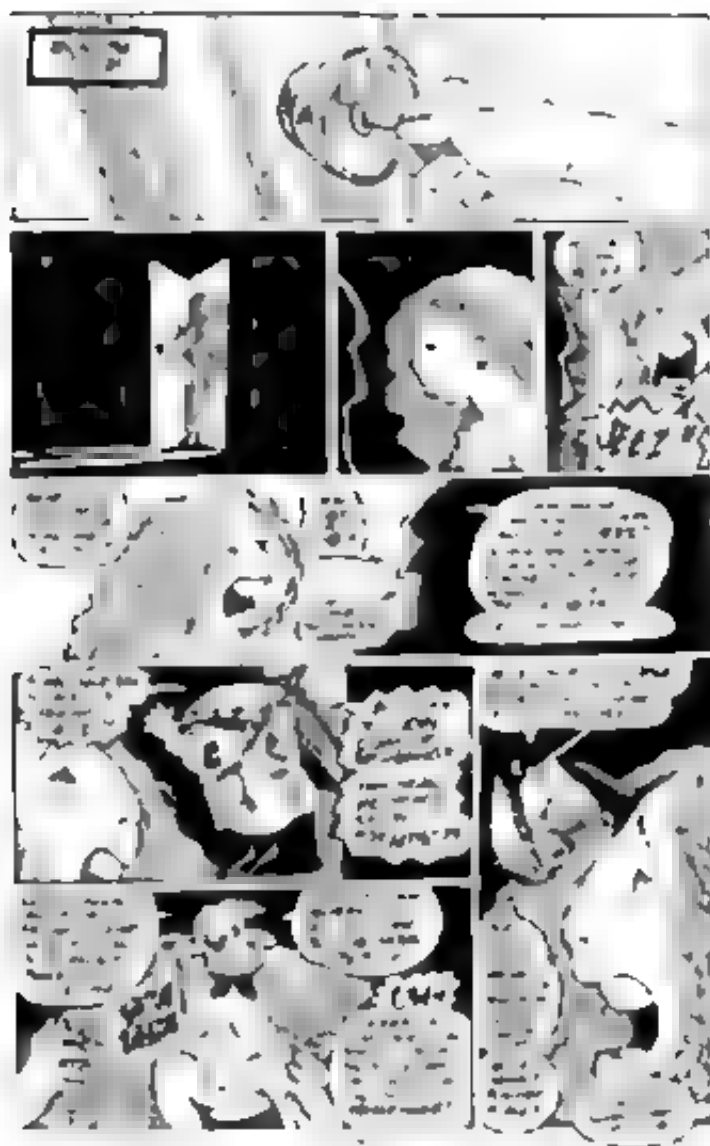




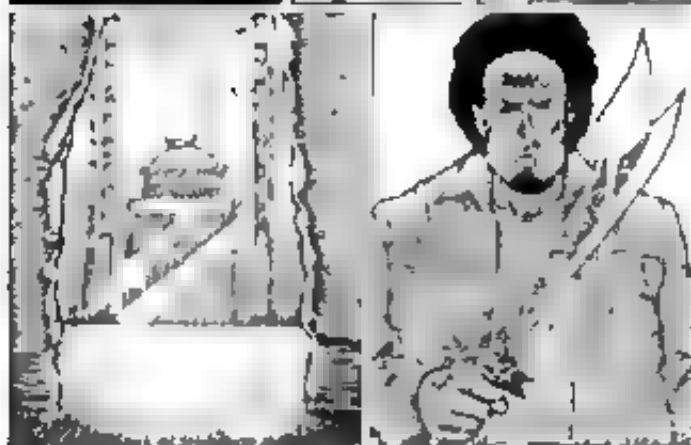




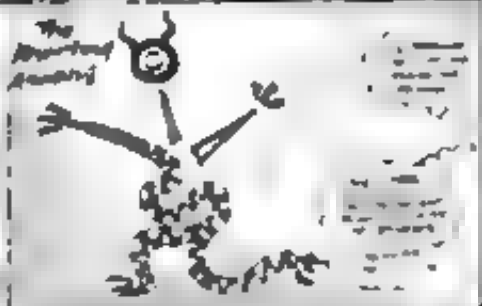
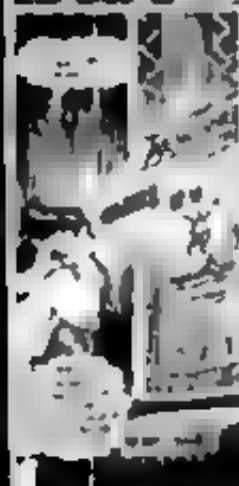


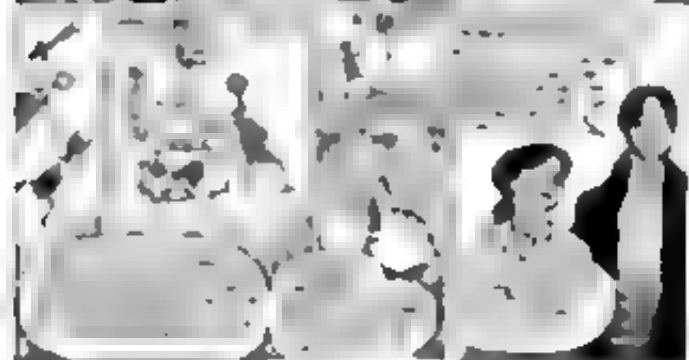










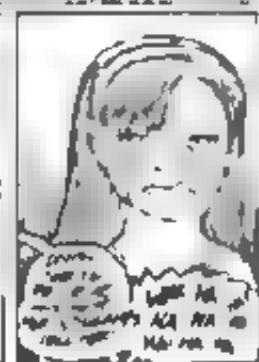
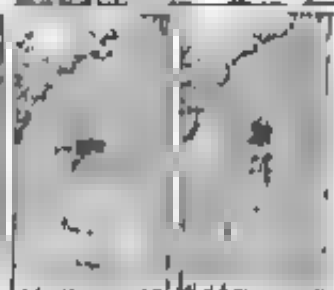






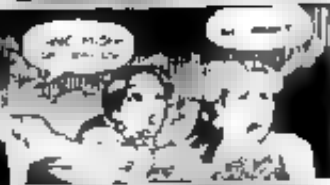
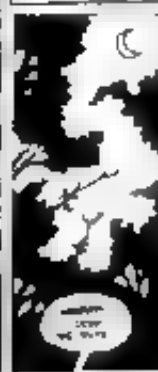












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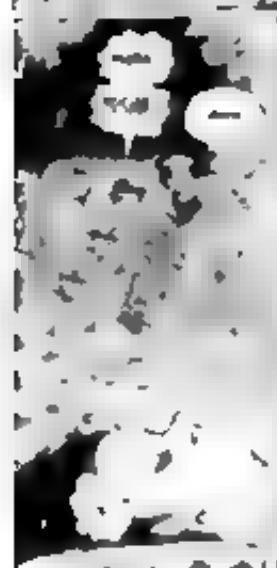
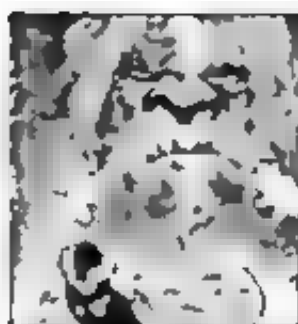


TAARRR



RRRRRR







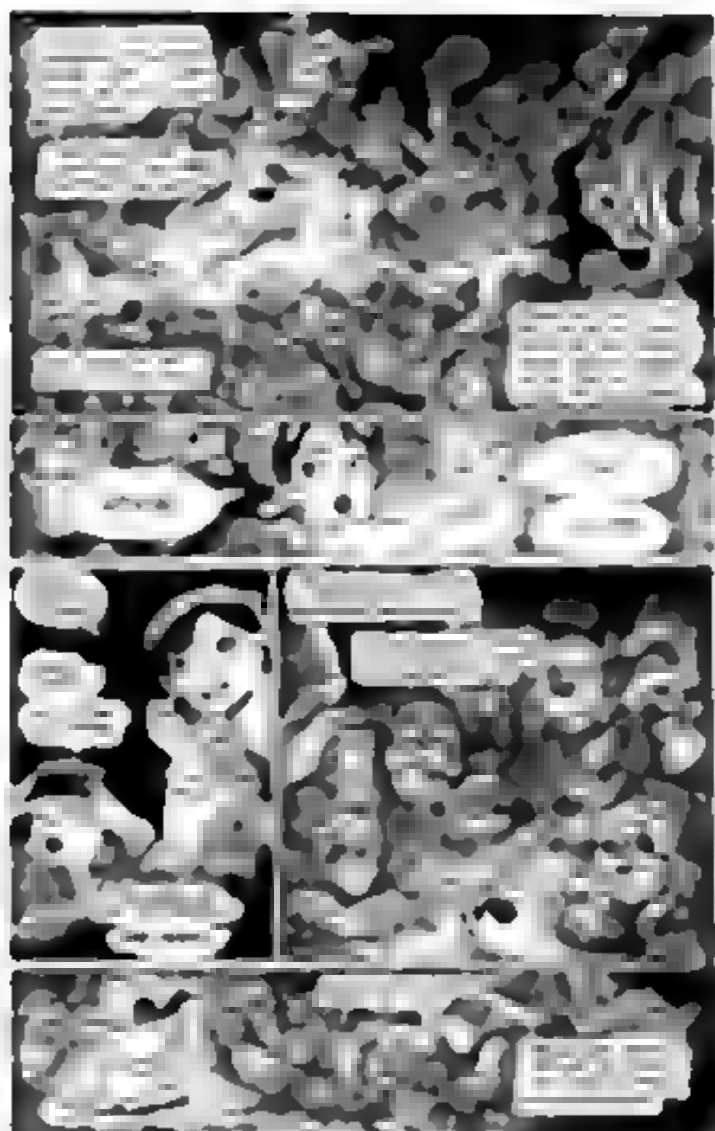
She and Mills had on the
get-up provided of course,
by the distant dancing
to her drum were heard by
many other outland troops
of Hymen. I did not know
any more.

Trained actually to wear the
tribe's foreign uniforms. The
tribe, but the dance had a
spiritual meaning. "Dance
dancing for good luck."

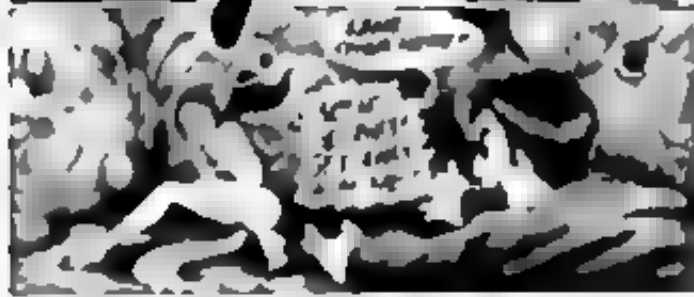
For the way it was
definitely working.



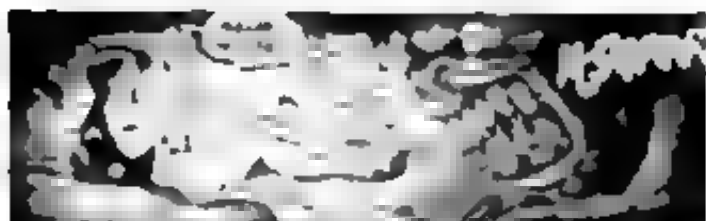




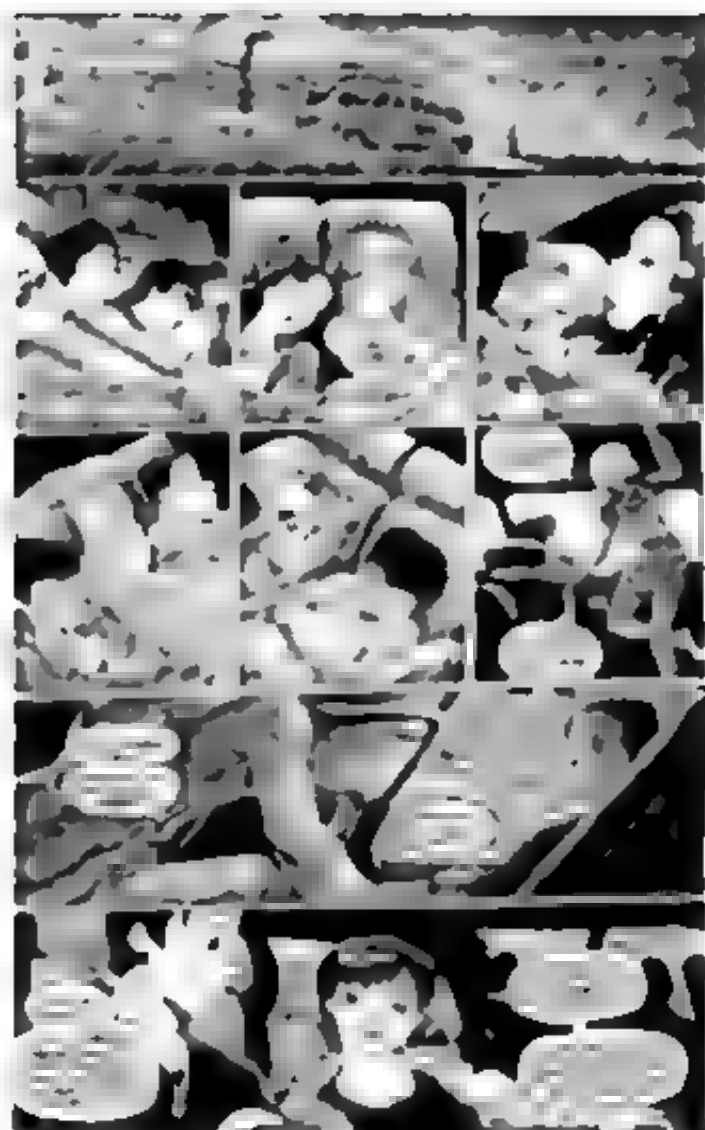
















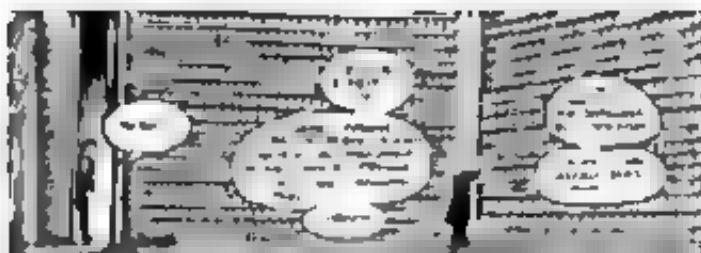


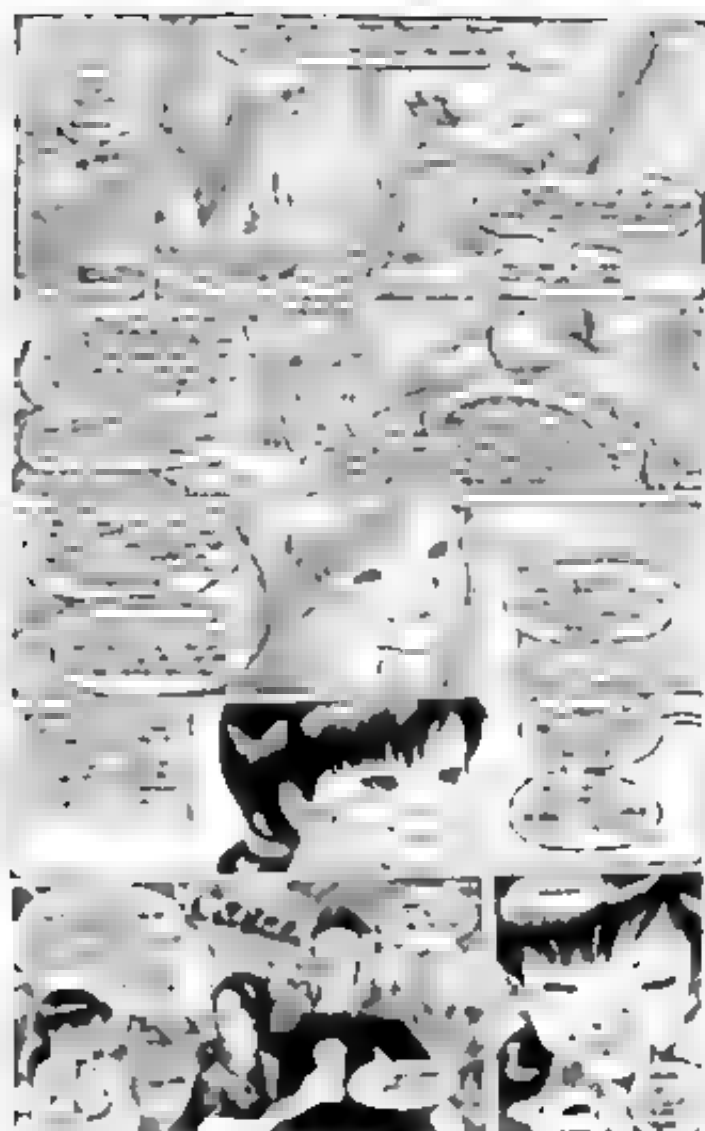




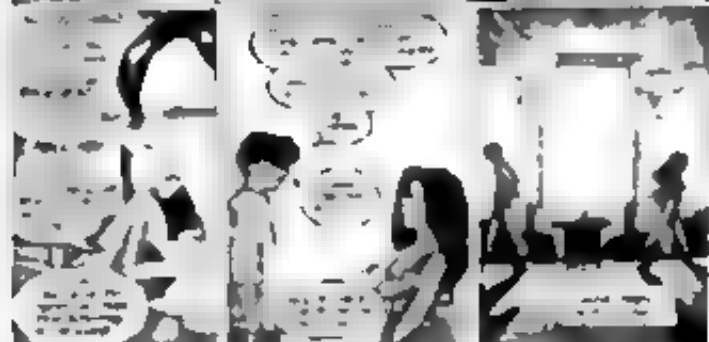
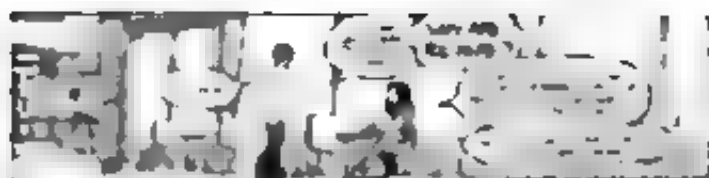


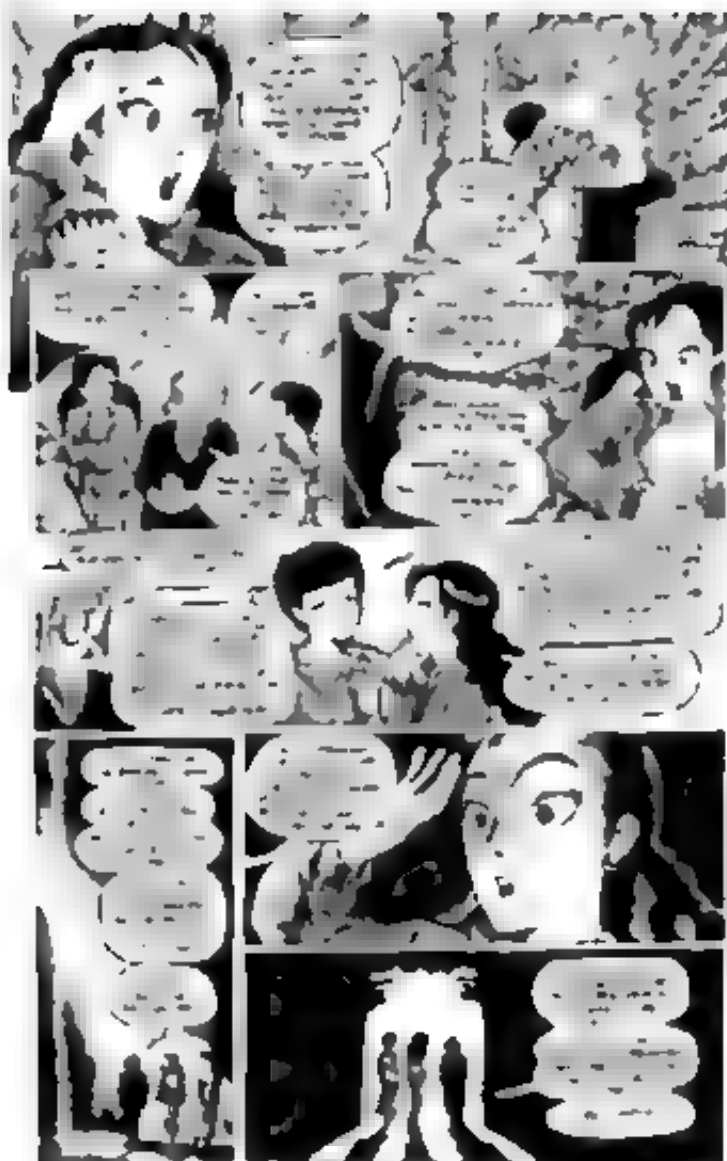






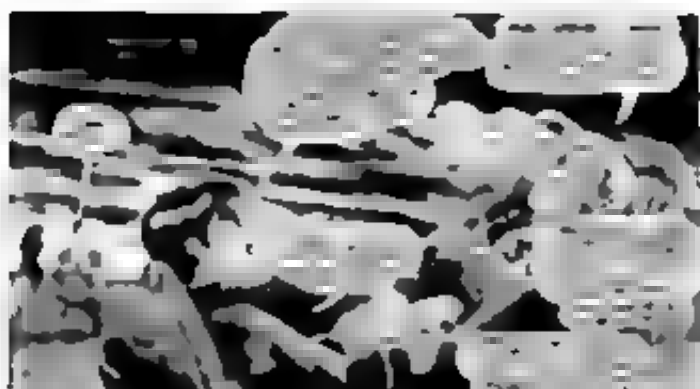




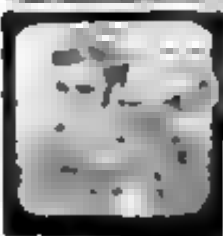
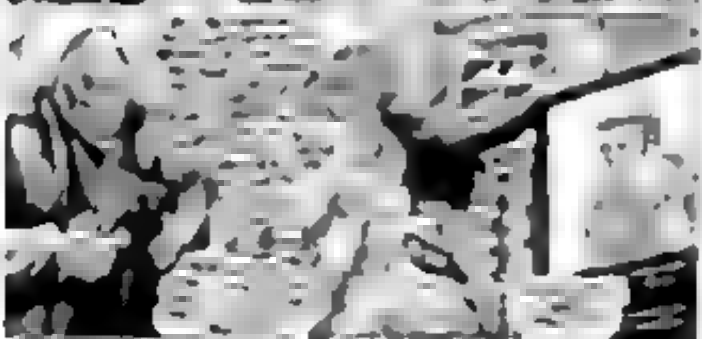
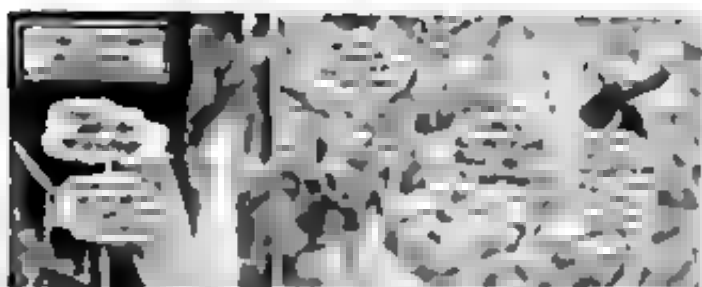


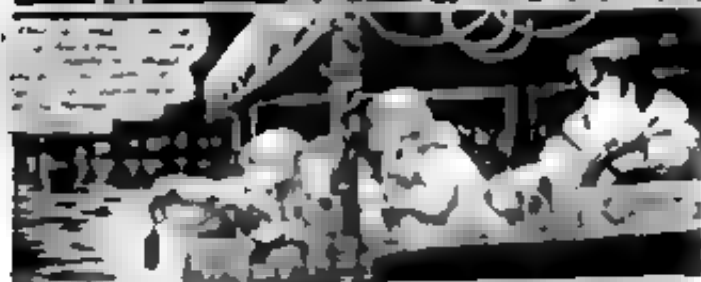
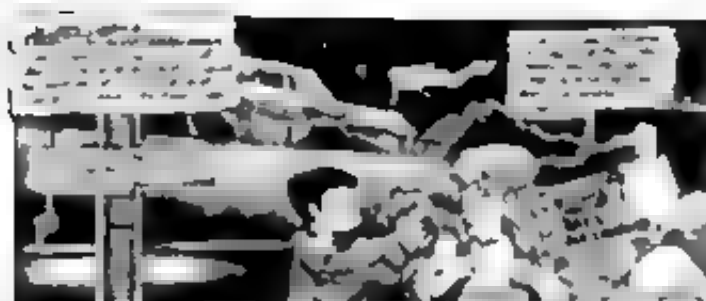




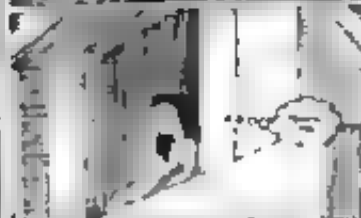
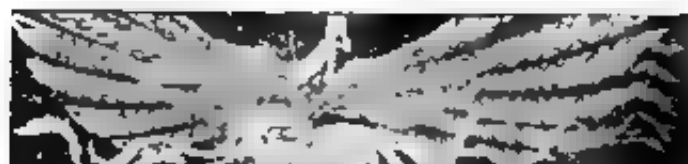


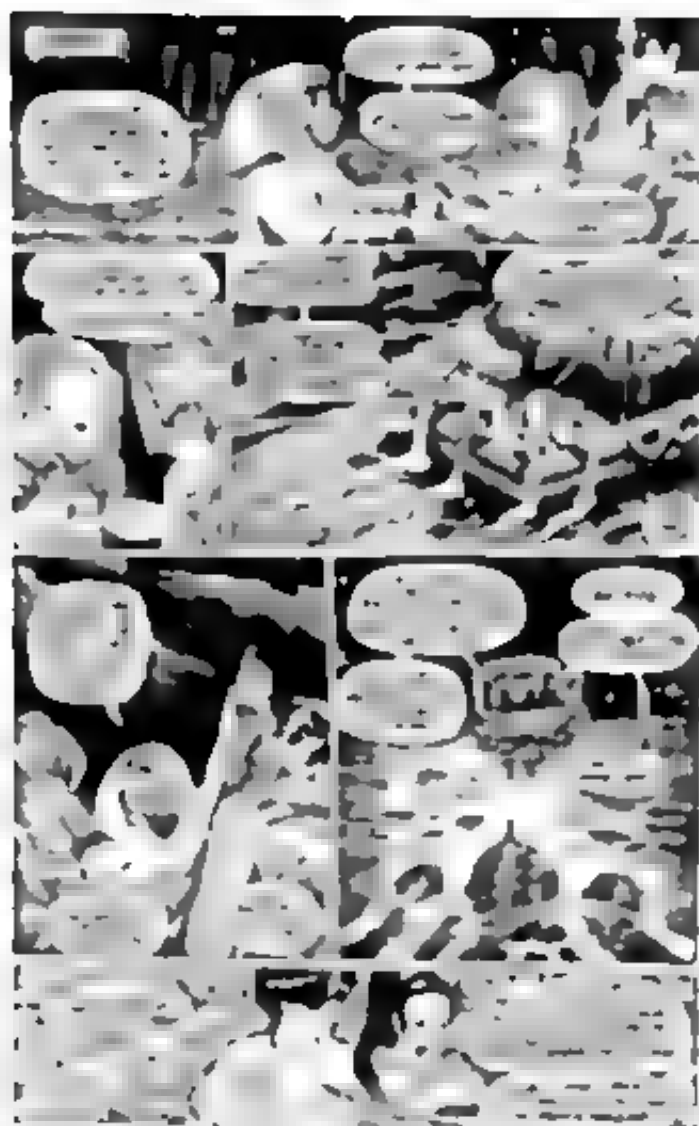














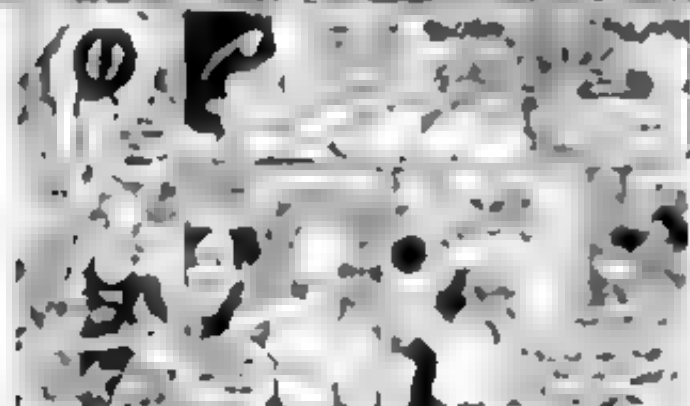




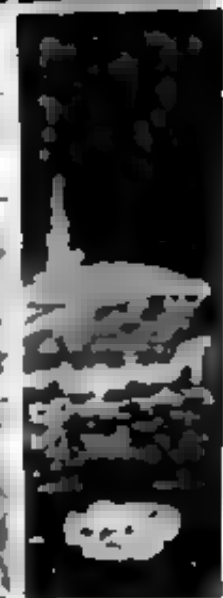
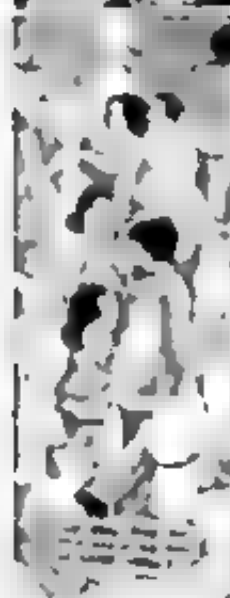
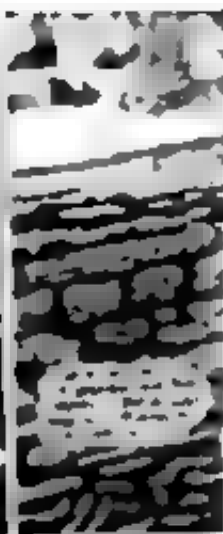


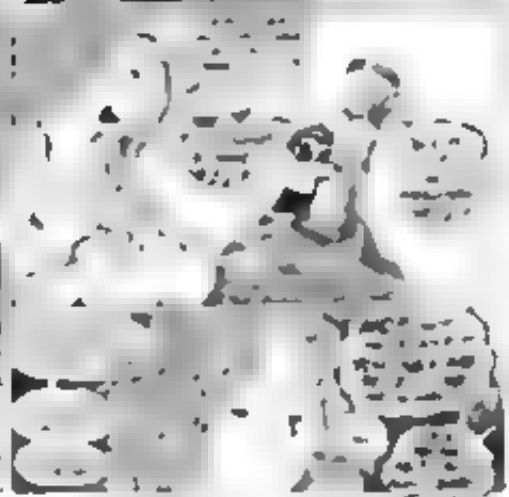
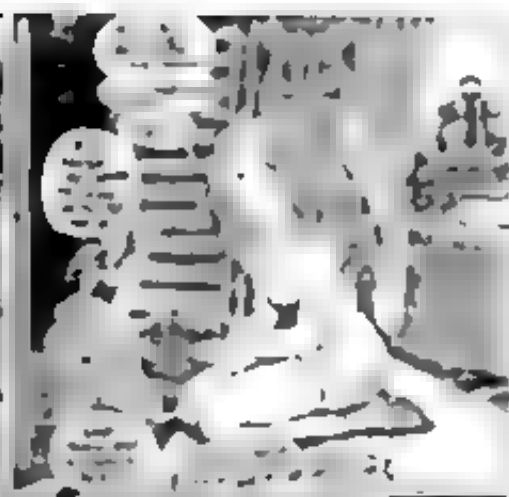






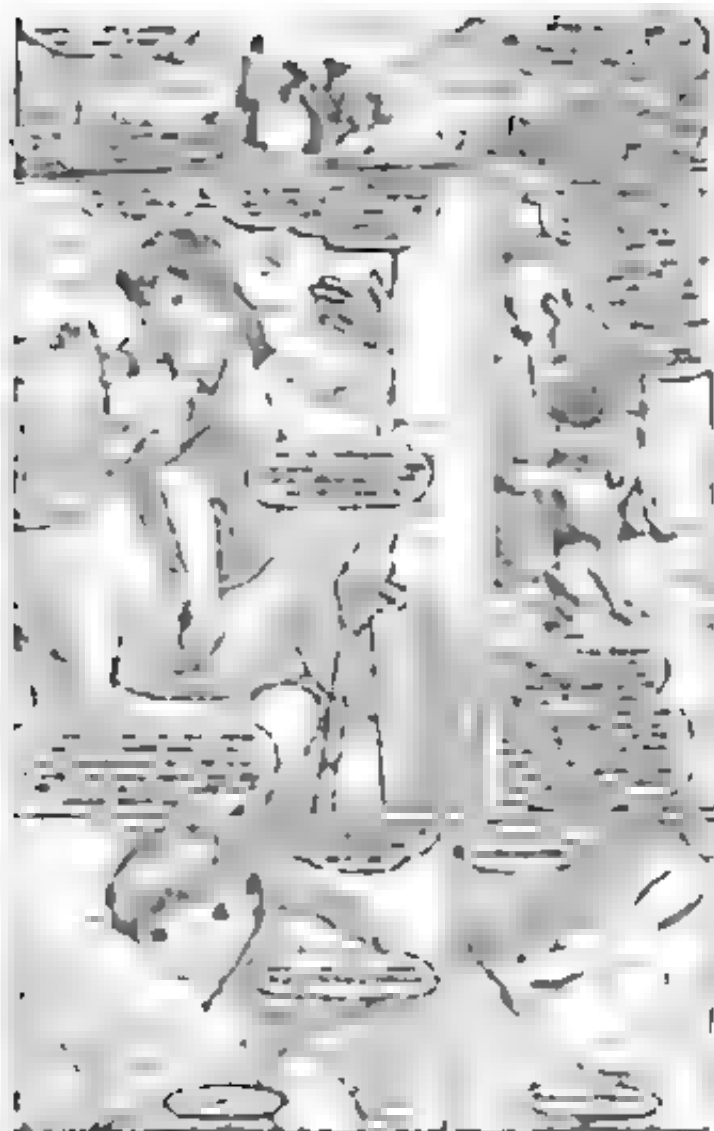


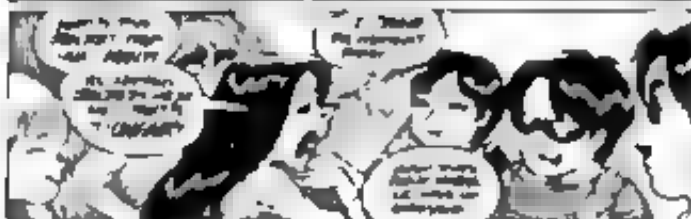


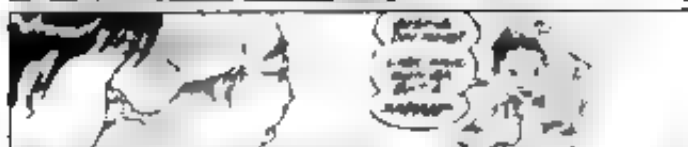
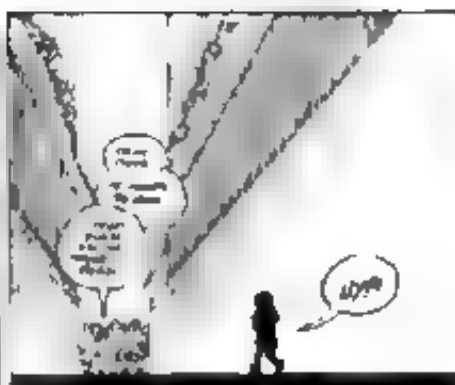


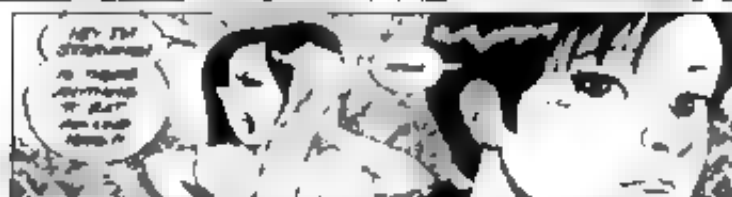
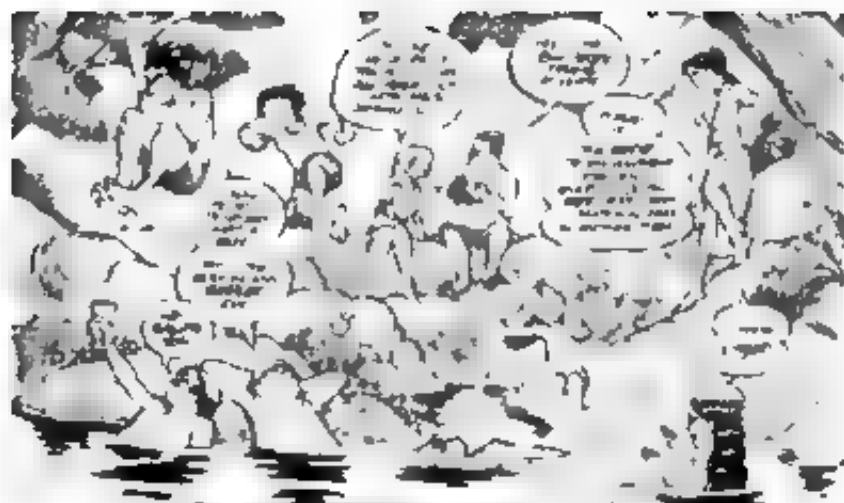




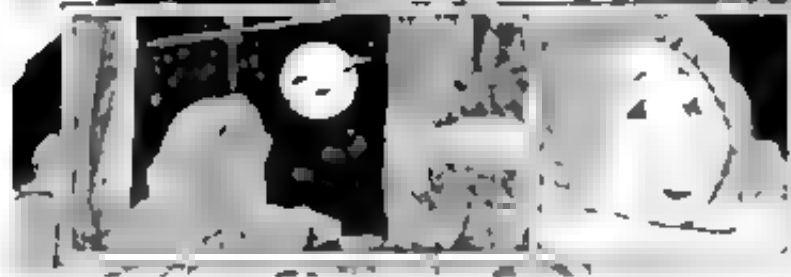


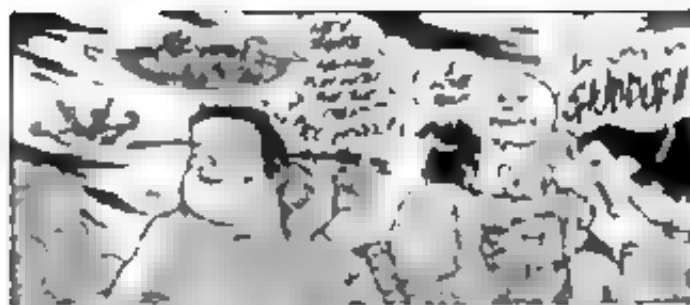


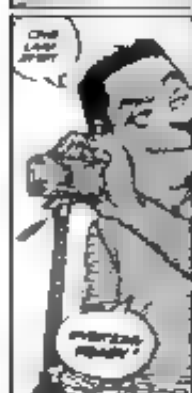




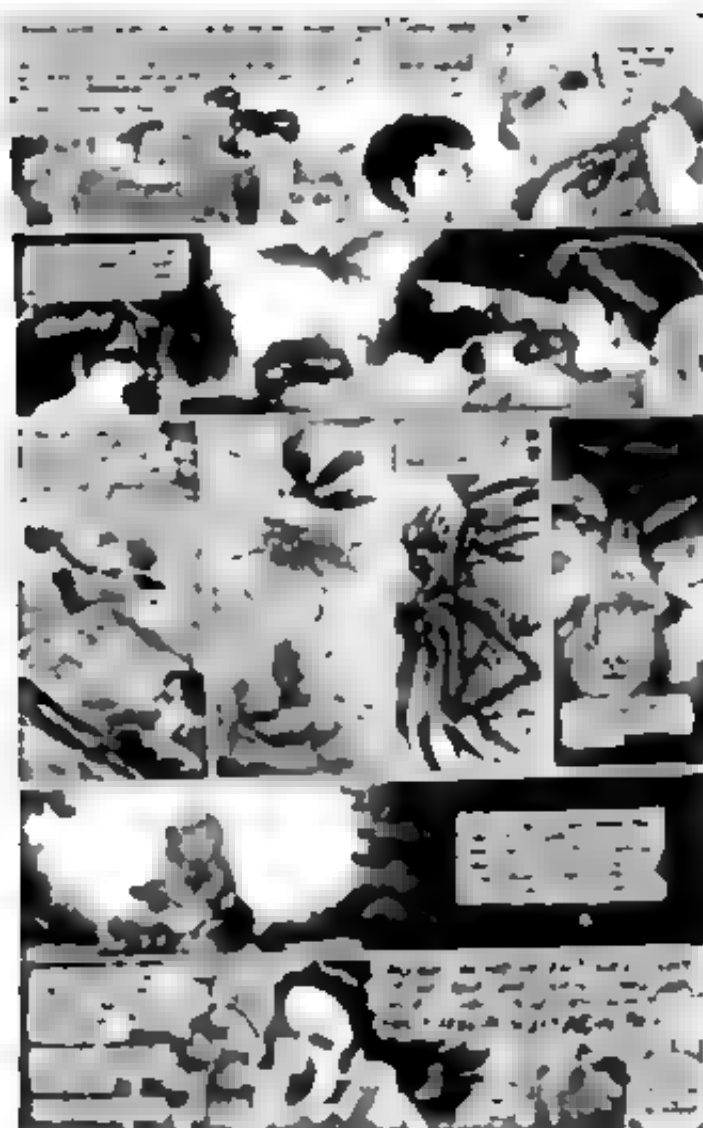


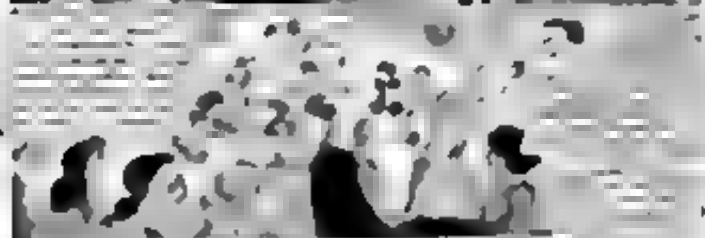


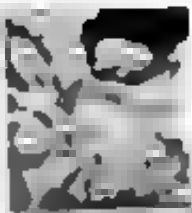




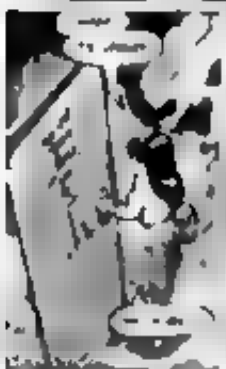
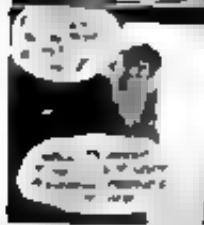
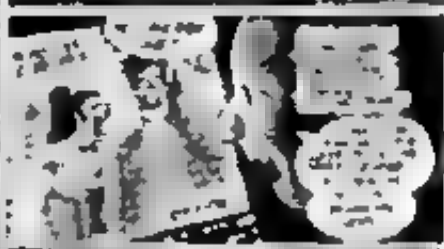
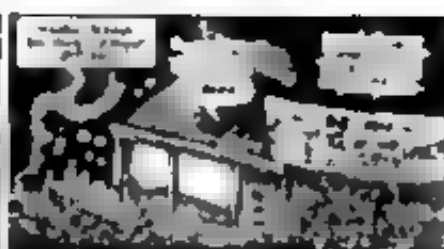






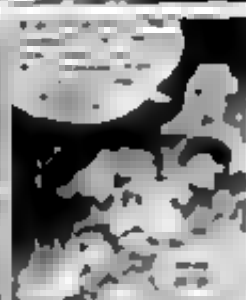
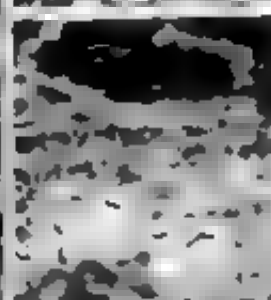
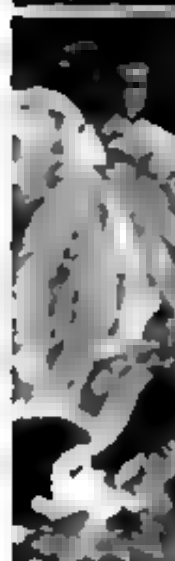
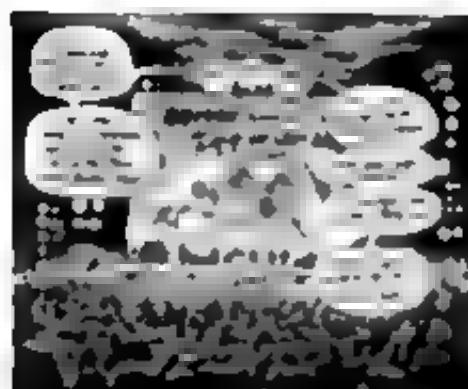


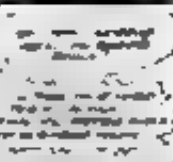
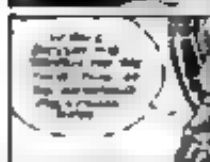


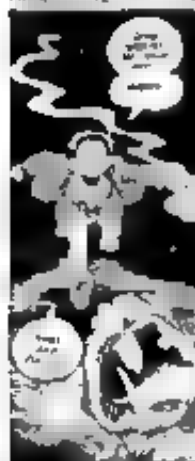




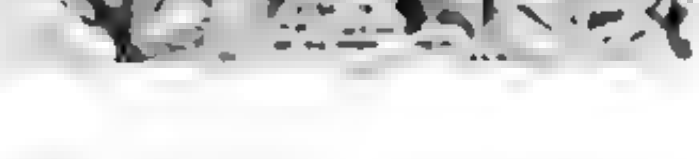
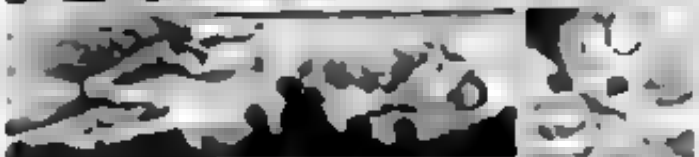


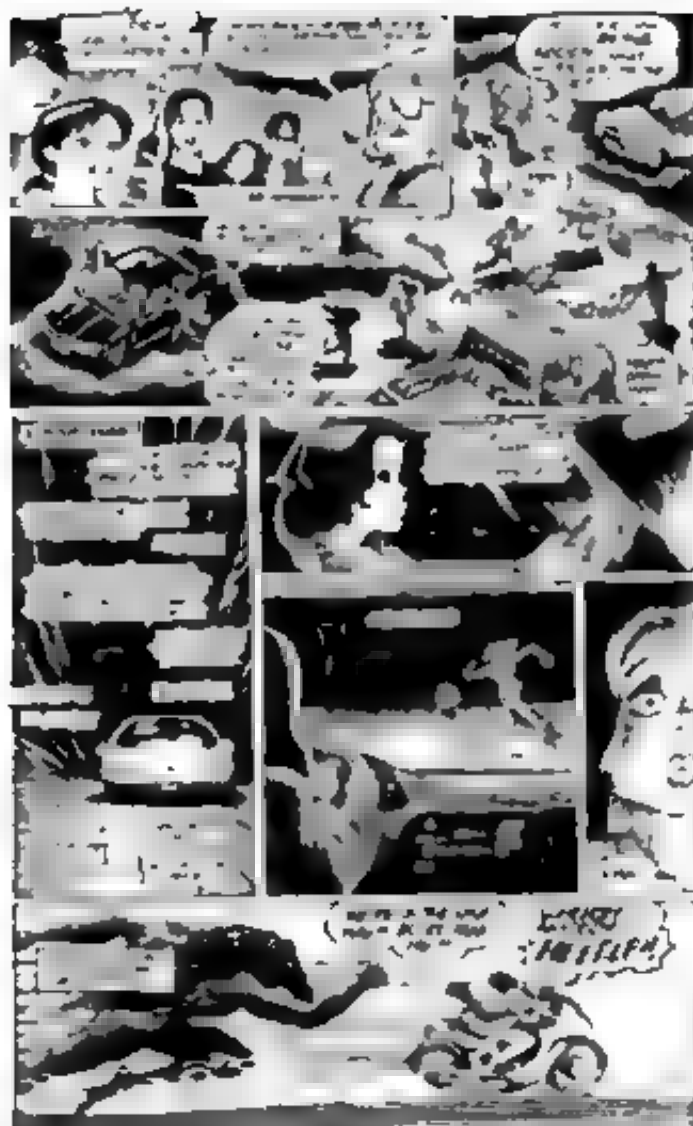




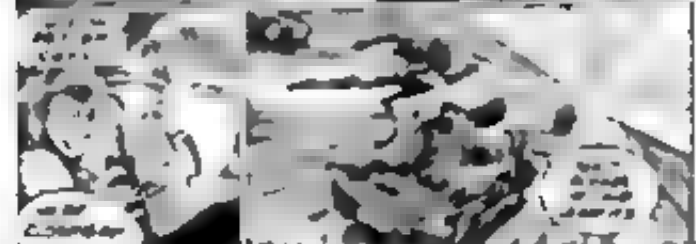




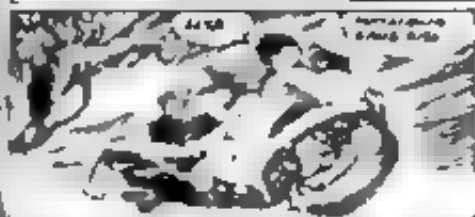


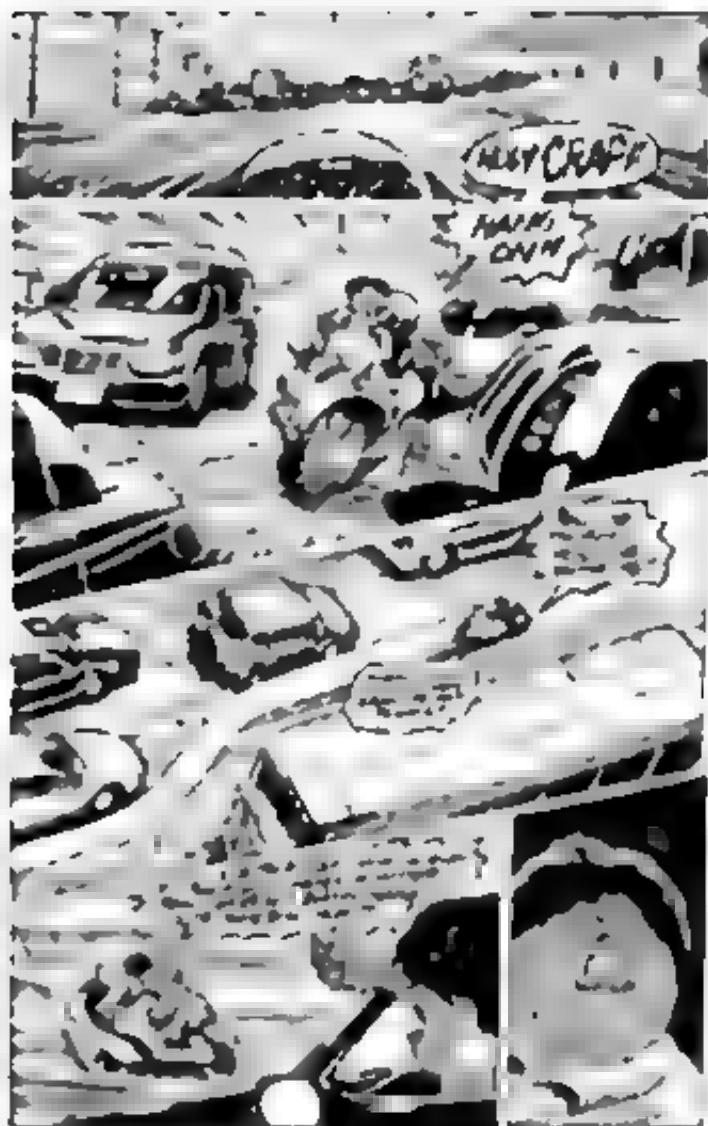


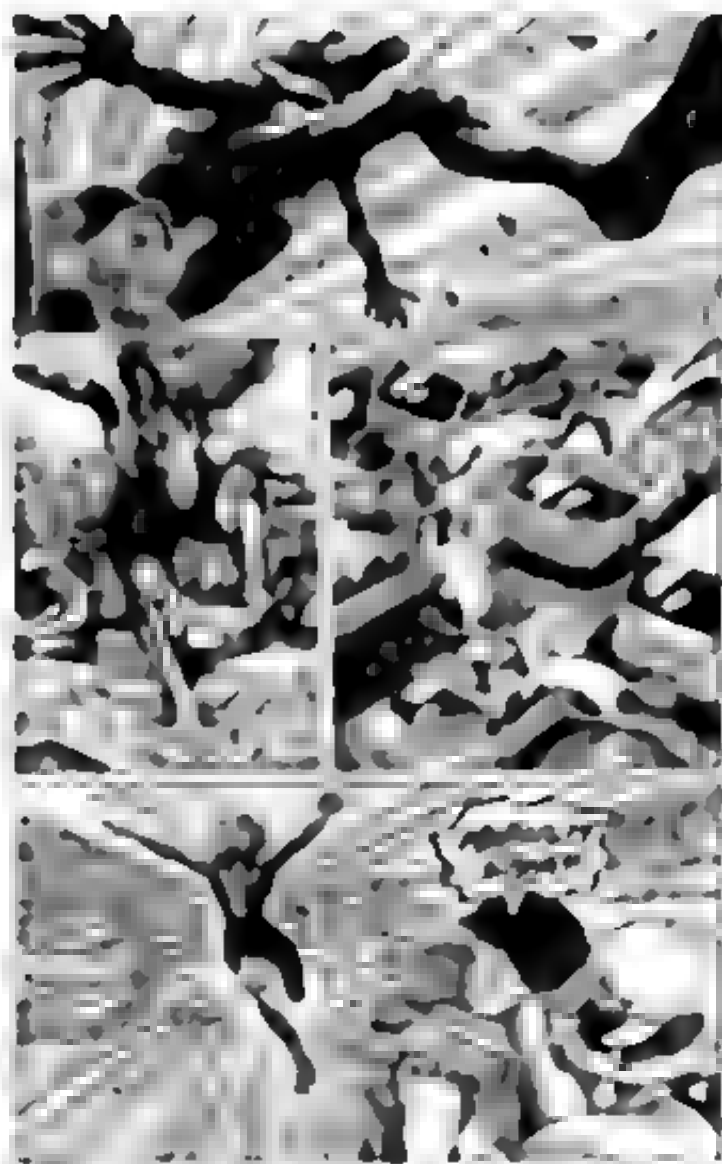




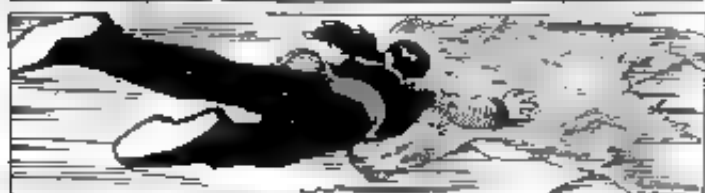








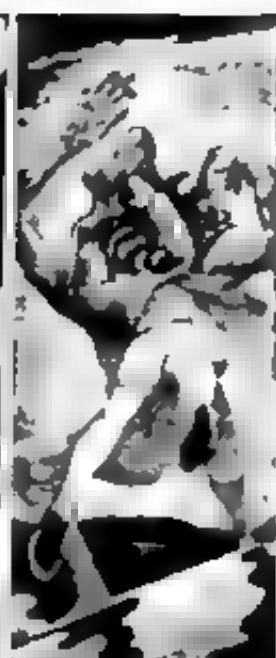


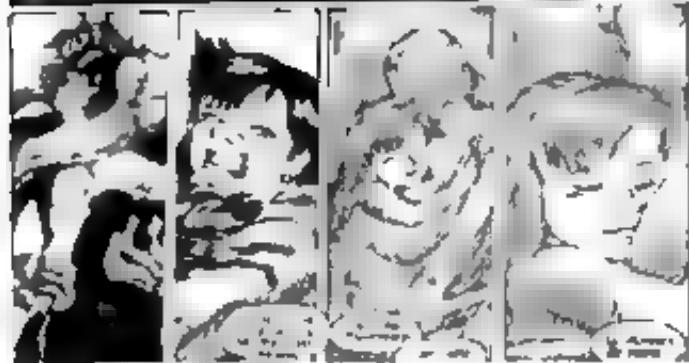
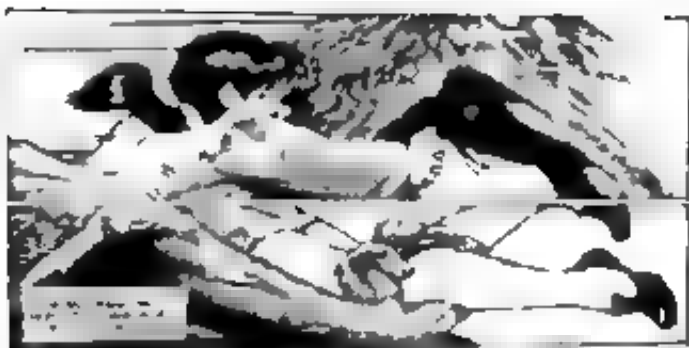


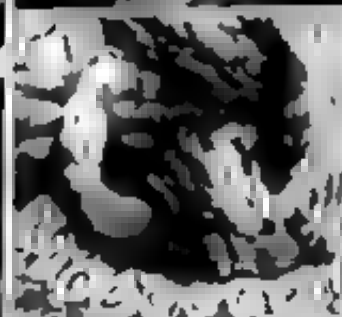
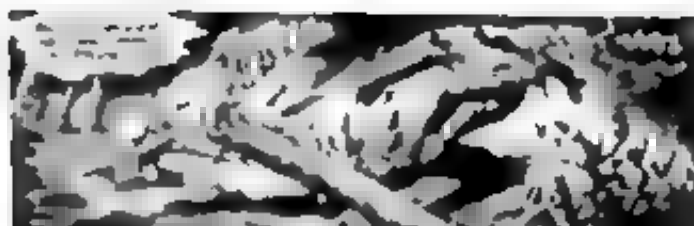


THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE
NOT! A PERSON! TO ME!!





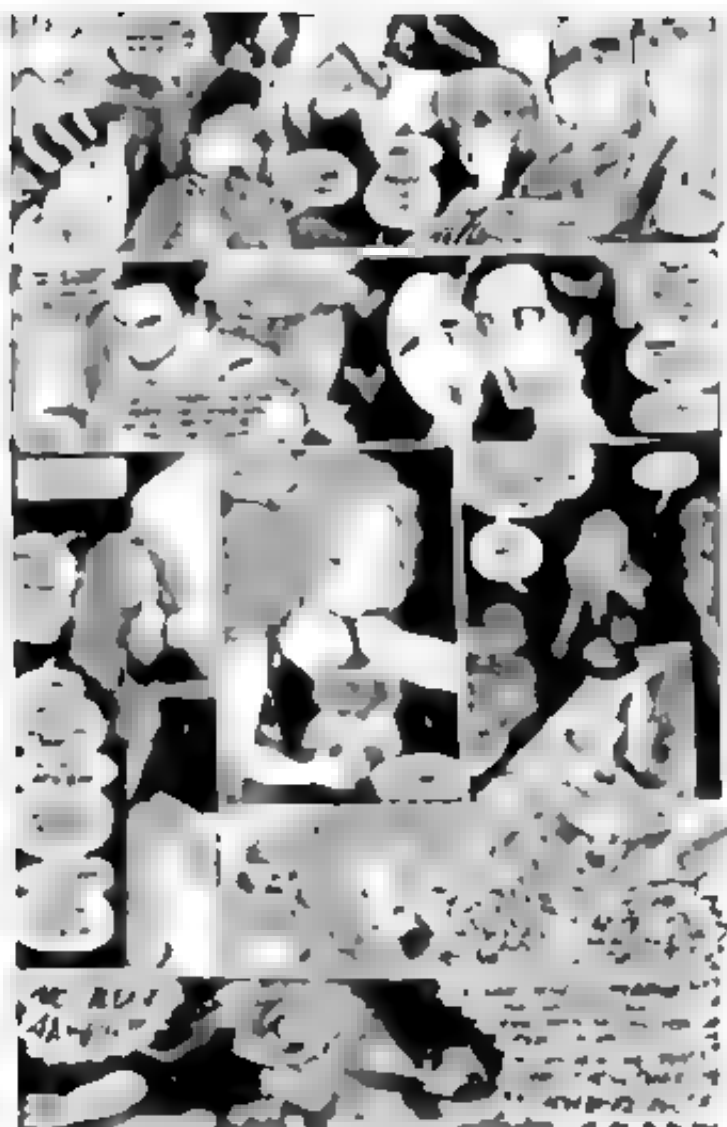














YOU WOULD
THE CHAIRS
WENT OUT
TO ME HAPPY
DURING

I KNOW
YOU WOULD
APPROVE THE
CALL - AM
ON BEHALF
OF YOU



YOU AND
YOUR FRIENDS
HAVE PROVEN
YOURSELVES
WORTHY



FOR YOU
CARRY
THE SAME
DREAMS AS
THE OTHERS
WHEN I
THOUGHT
CERTAINLY
AND



THIS IS
SUCH A
NICE
PLACE





BOY: WHEN
AND I WERE
ALONE, THE
TO RUN AWAY
AND TALK ABOUT
THE EMBROIDERED

SOMETIMES I
WONDER HOW
LONG IT WILL
BEFORE
THE E
MAY BE



YOU
KNOW
SOMETIMES I
WISH THE WORLD
COULD RUN JUST
THE PLEASANT MEMENTO
WITH SOMETHING THAT
ISN'T A LAST REMINDER



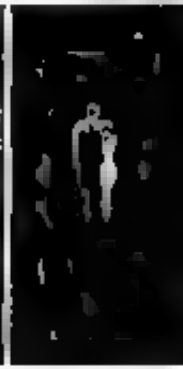
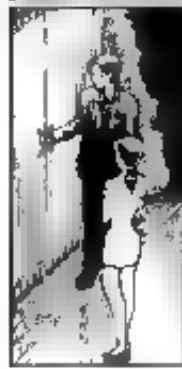
WELL, MOTHER, HERE
WE GO. PLEASE, YOU
WILL FOR A FEW
DAYS WE WILL BE
LEAVING YOU
NOT I AM QUITE
CERTAIN WE WILL
NEED ANY MORE
STORIES

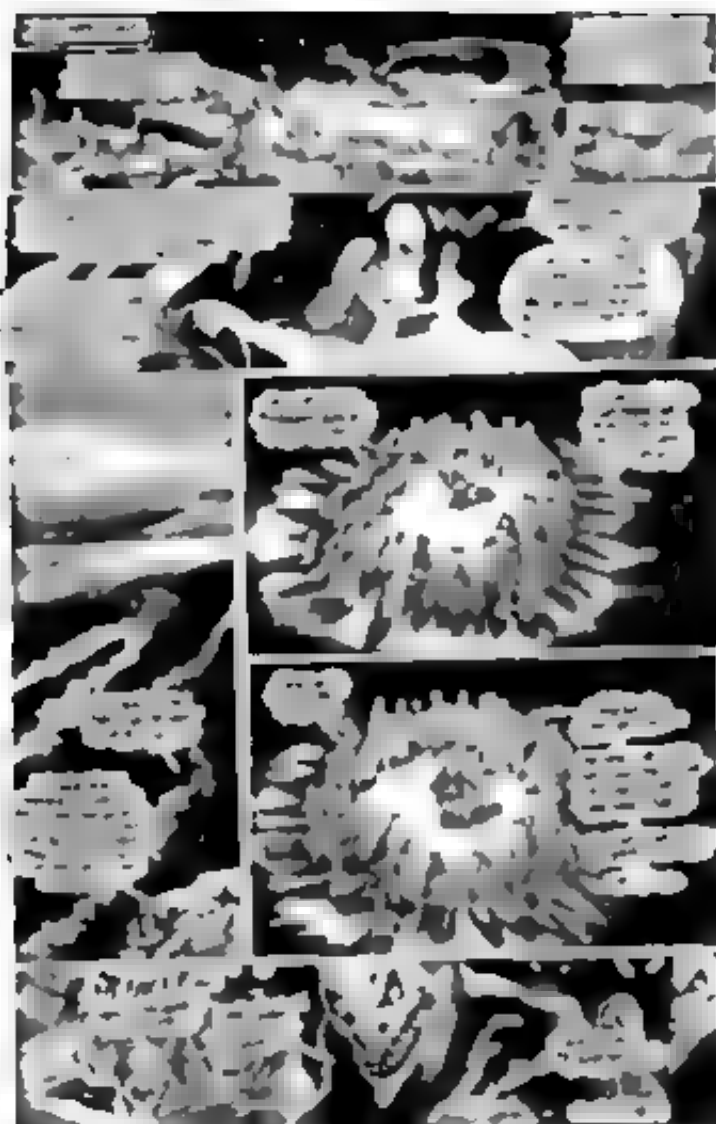
LITTLE, I HAVE
REMEMBERED ME
NOT TO LET YOUR
REMEMBER OF ME
THAT FROM YOU

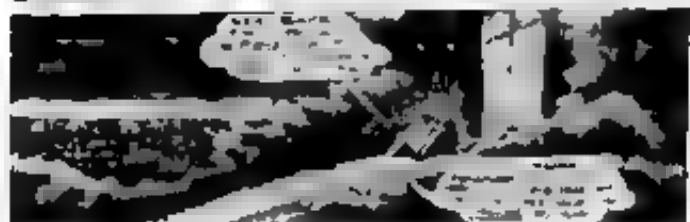
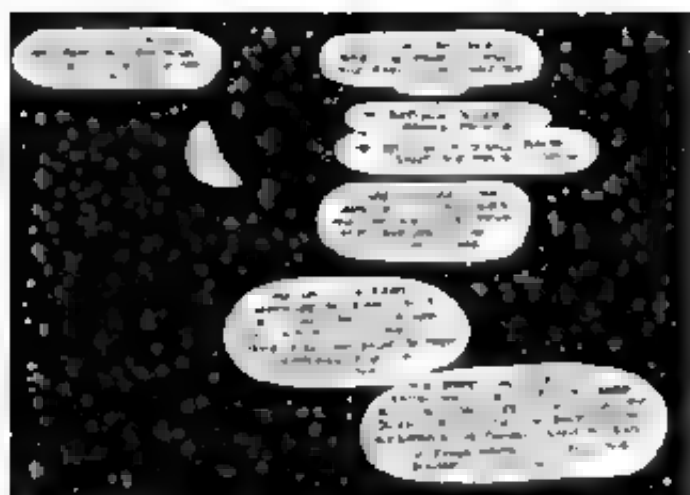


I
WONDER

IT IS
WITH
MY DREAMS









ANYONE ELSE
ONE ALL TO ANSWER
THAT'S ONE GOING TO
THINK THAT THE JUD
BEHOLD, ONLY AND
WELL DIFFERENT
IN THE GOOD
PASS

AND IT'S ALL
THE THINGS
THAT WERE FIRST
CREATED REMAIN
THE SAME

PEOPLE ARE
THE ONLY WHO
KEEP CHANGING
THE FACES OF THE
WORLD



WELL, NO MATTER HOW
MUCH THEY HAVE SEEN
THE EARTH, LIFE, LOVE
AND DEATH, THE ELEGANCE
OF THE UNIVERSE, THEY
HOLD ON TO THE
DREAM

THEY ARE
THE ONLY WHO
KEEP CHANGING
THE FACES OF THE
WORLD

THEY ARE
THE ONLY WHO
KEEP CHANGING
THE FACES OF THE
WORLD



WHEN DID THE WORLD
AND LIFE BECOME
A PLACE FOR US TO
SEARCHING A PLACE FROM
WITHIN THE HEART OF
CIVILIZATION AND
SUNSHINE

I WISH I COULD
SEE WHAT YOU'D BEEN
HOLDING

THEY ARE
THE ONLY WHO
KEEP CHANGING
THE FACES OF THE
WORLD



WHEN DID THE WORLD
AND LIFE BECOME
A PLACE FOR US TO
SEARCHING A PLACE FROM
WITHIN THE HEART OF
CIVILIZATION AND
SUNSHINE

ALL THE GROWING AND HARVEST
OF A WORLD EARTHED IN THE
MINDS TO BE REVEALED BY
ITS CHILDREN



GUESS YOU'VE
GOT A LOT OF
PEOPLE TO THINK

PEOPLE TO THINK



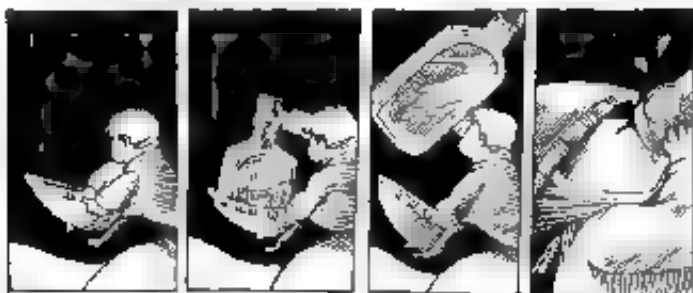
NO
NOT REALLY

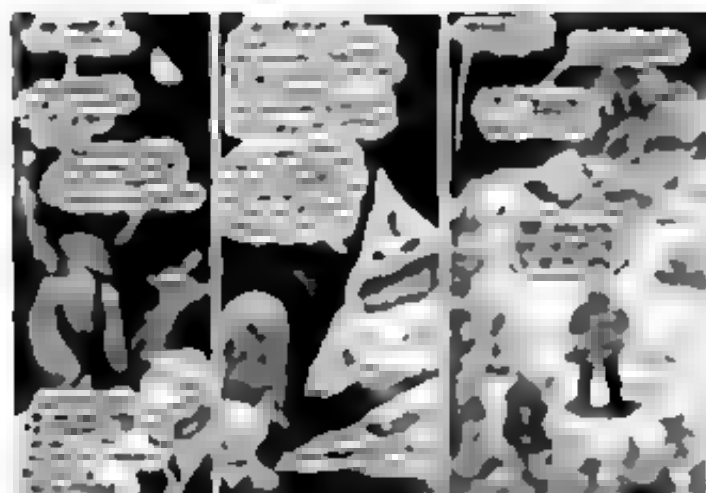


NOT
JUST
NOW



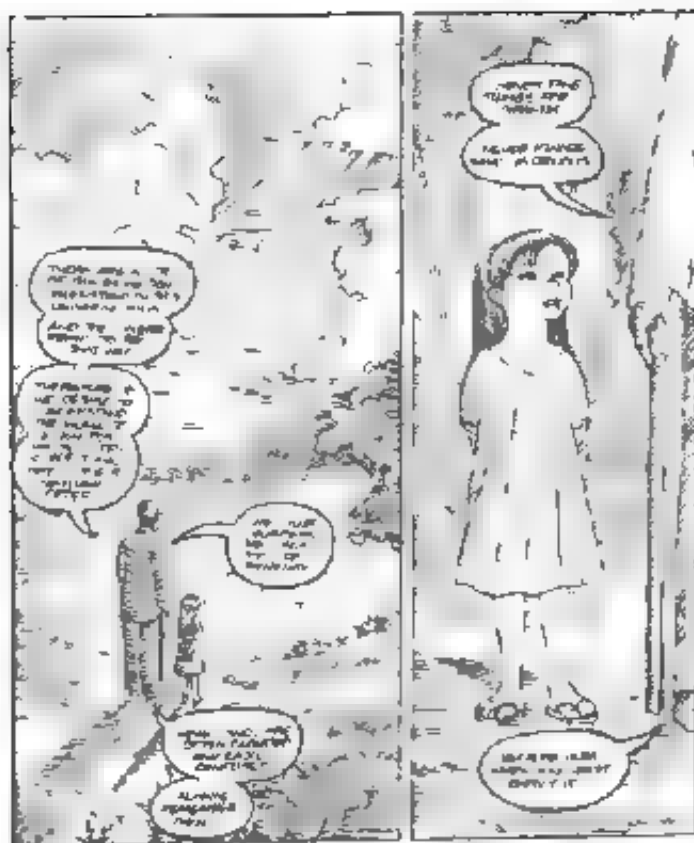


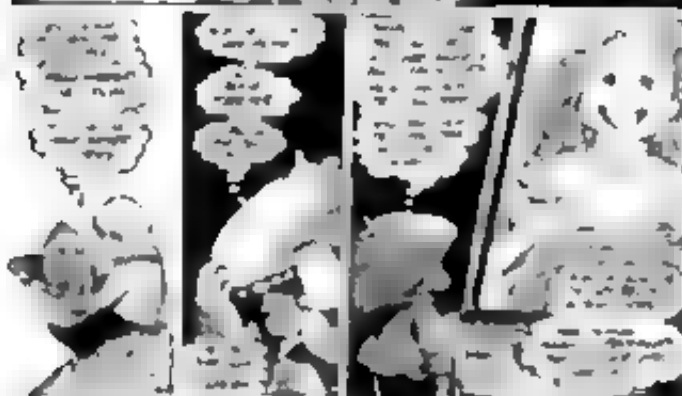


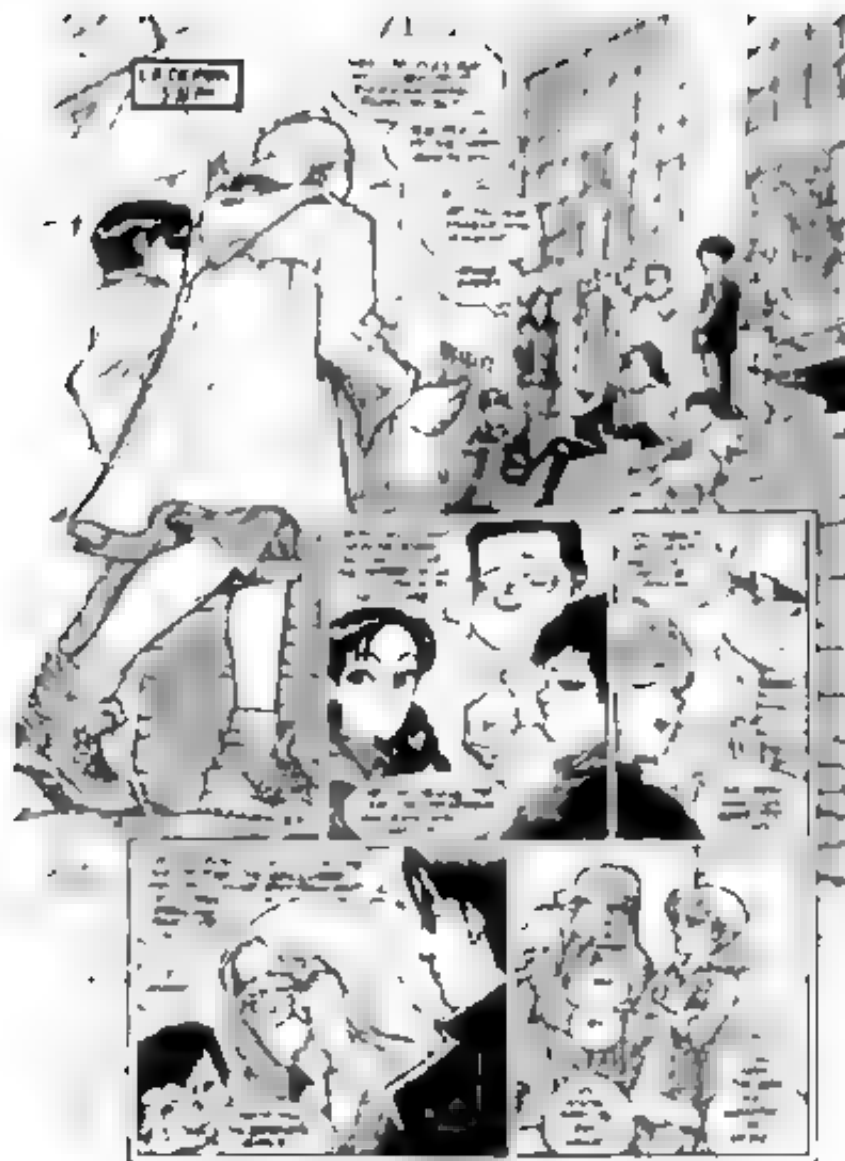




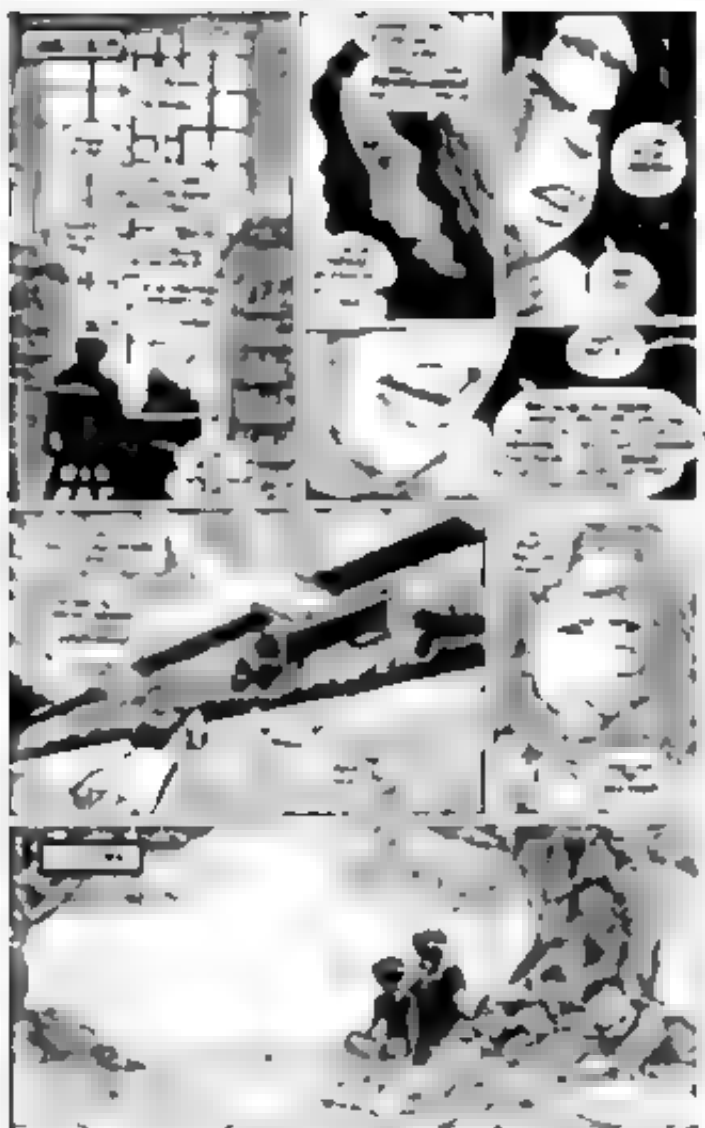














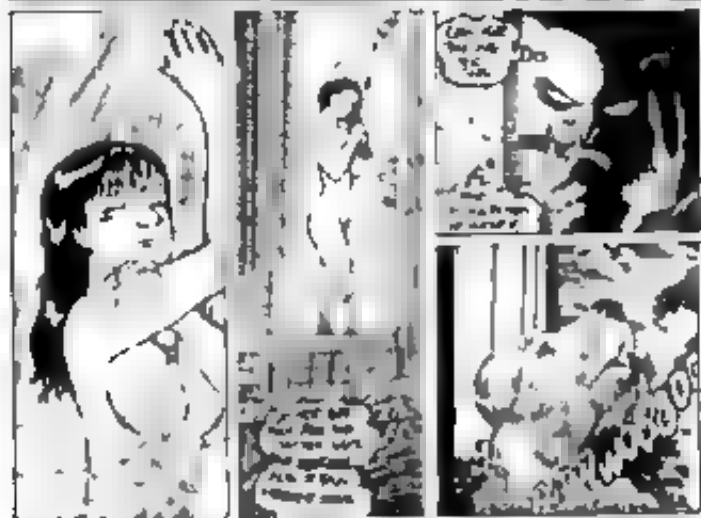
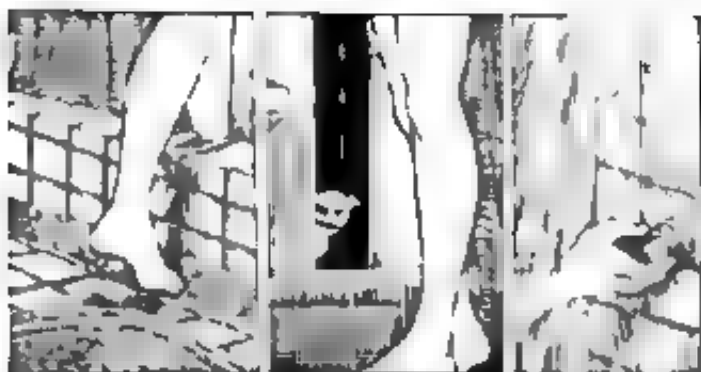


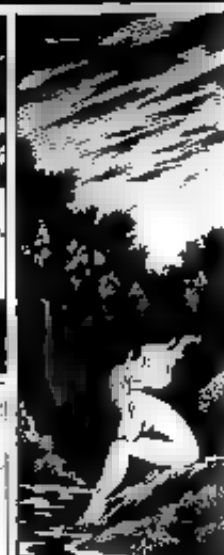






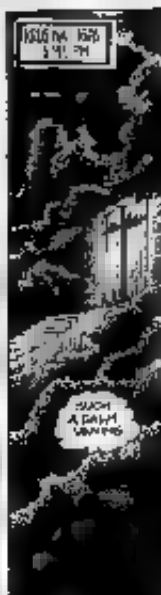


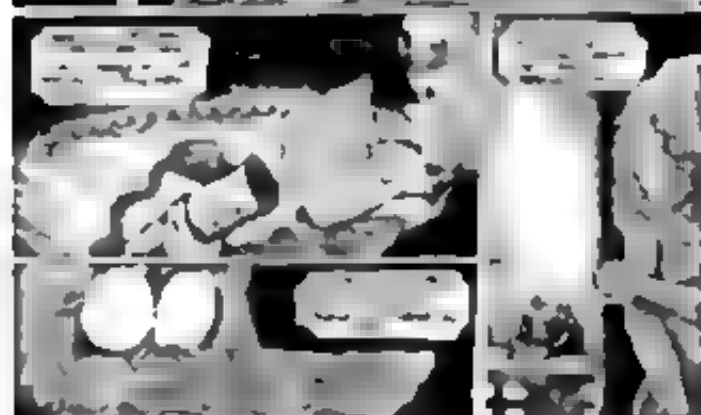




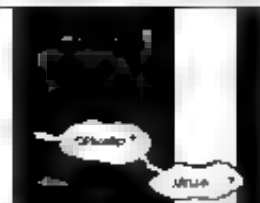
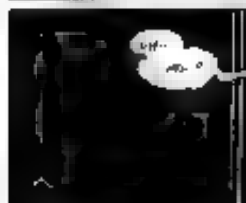


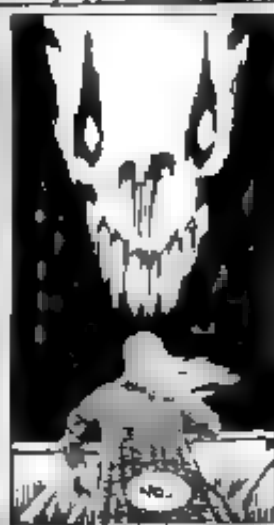








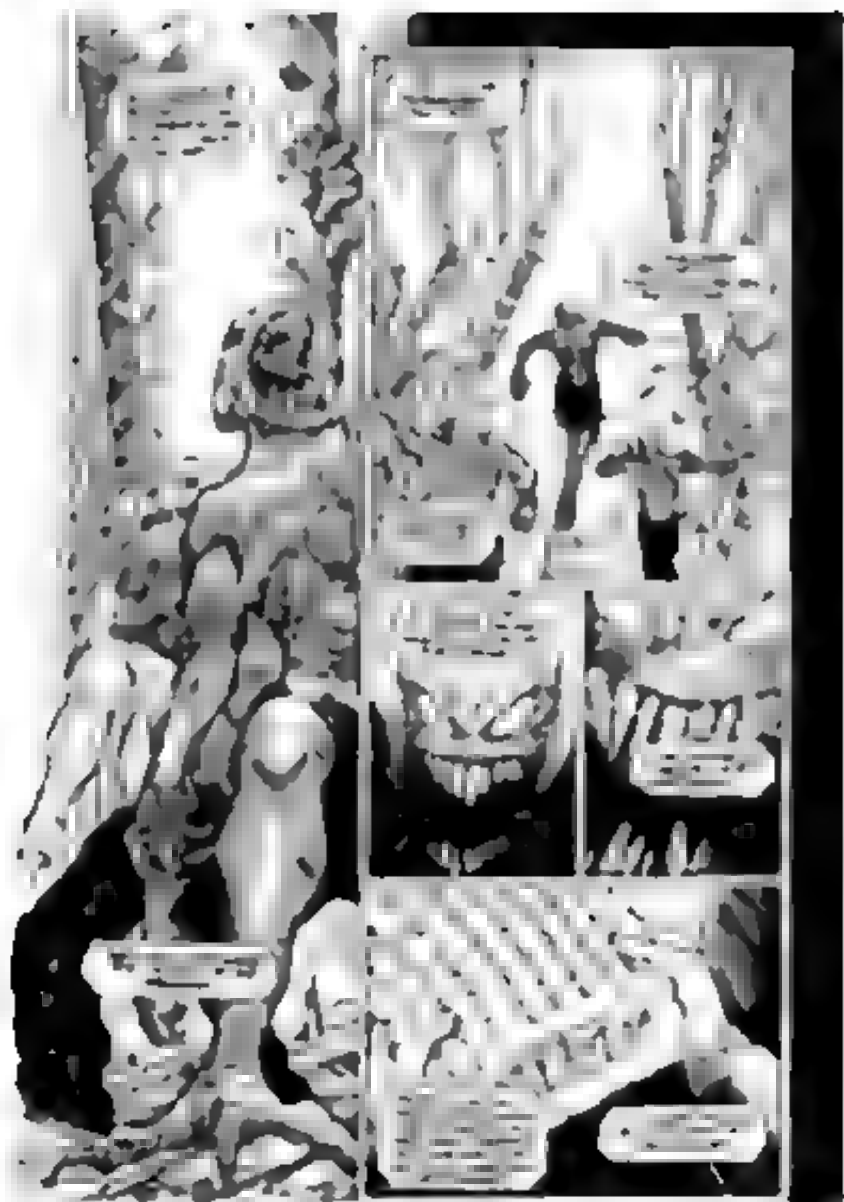






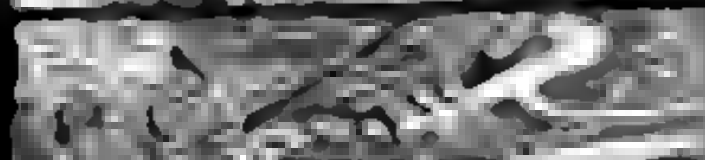
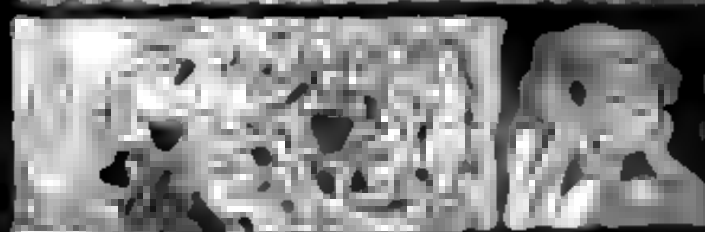


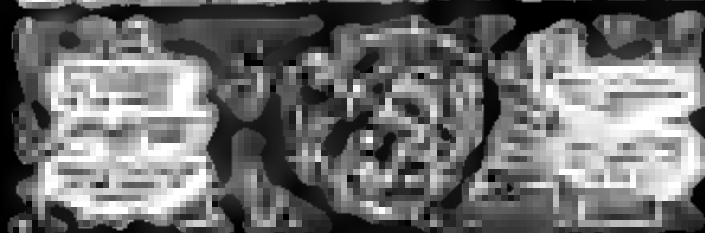
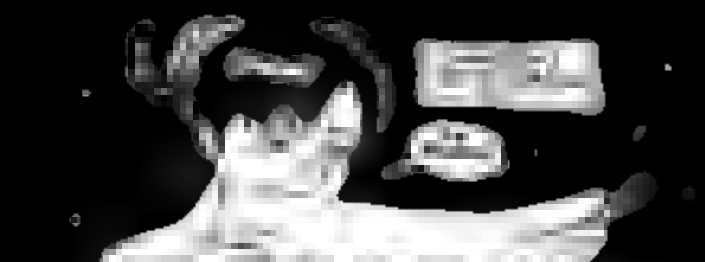




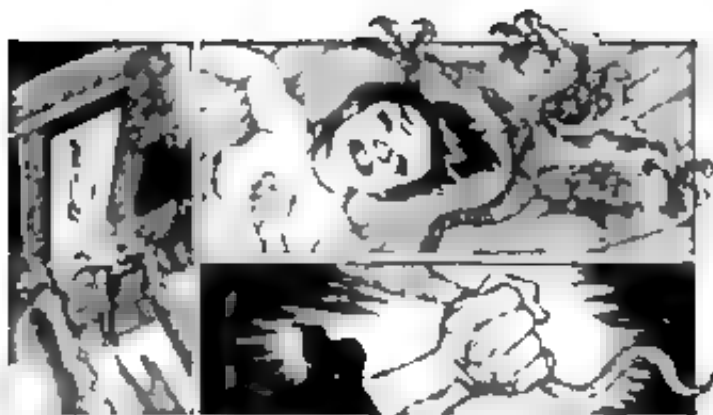


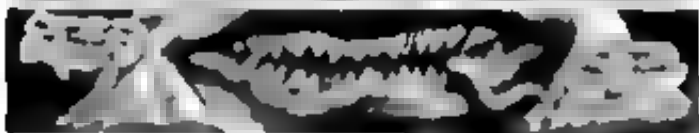
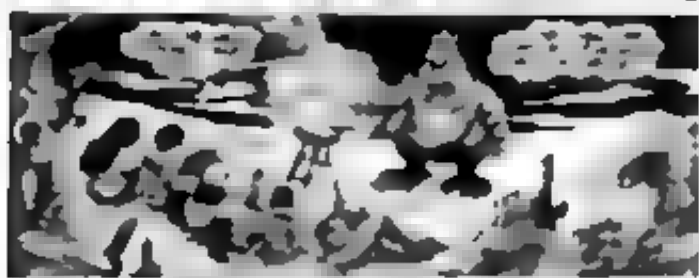


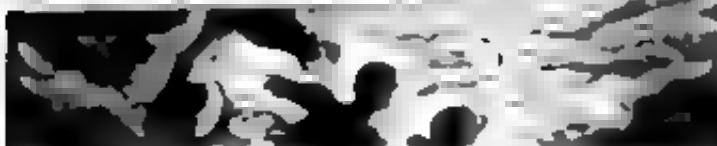


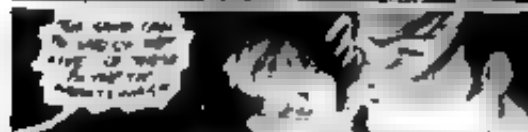
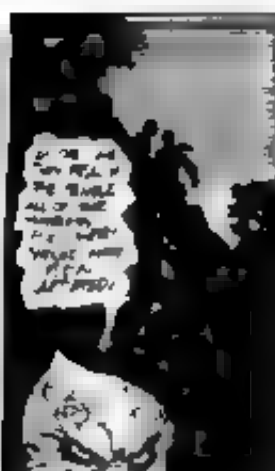
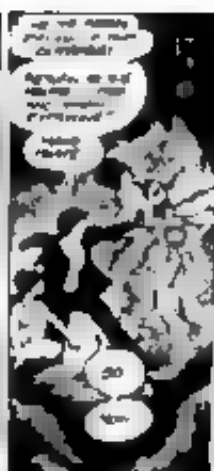




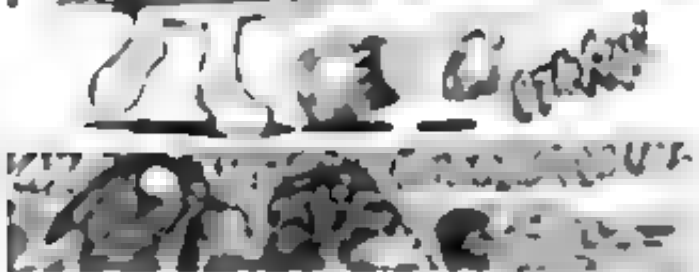
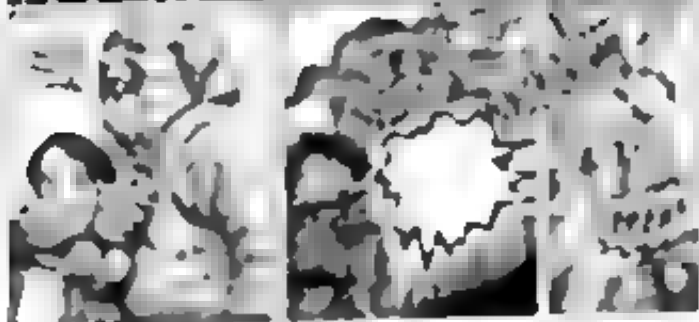
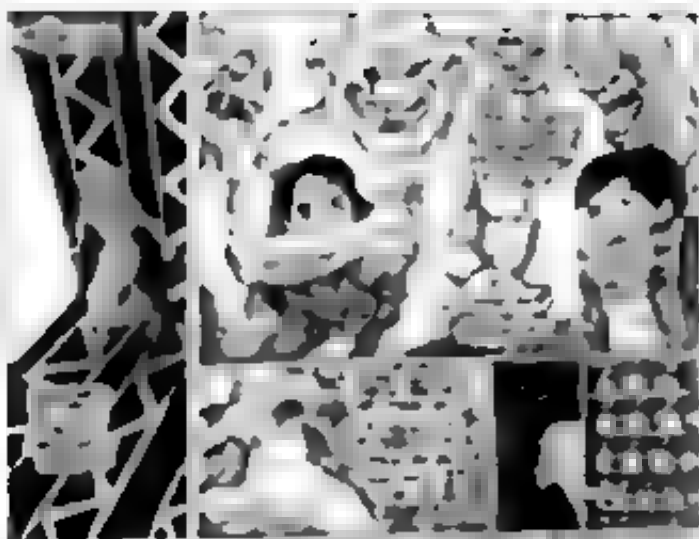




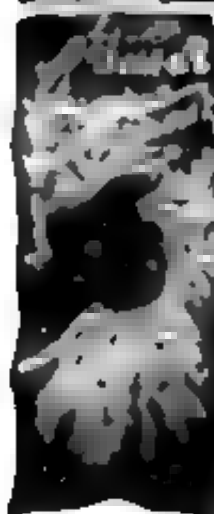
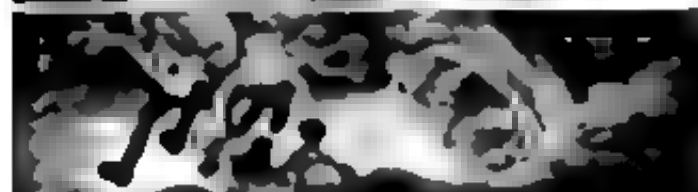
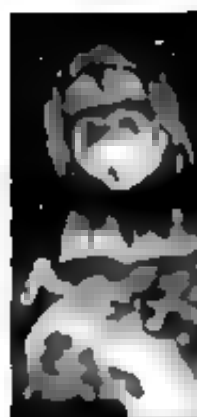


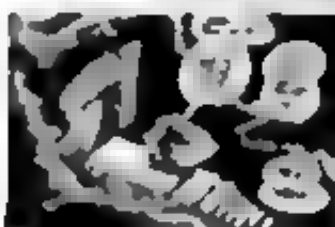
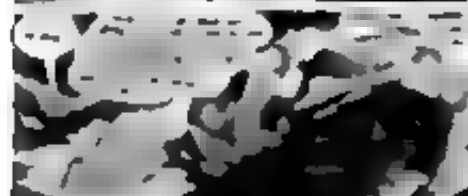










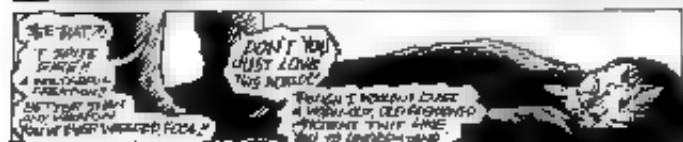




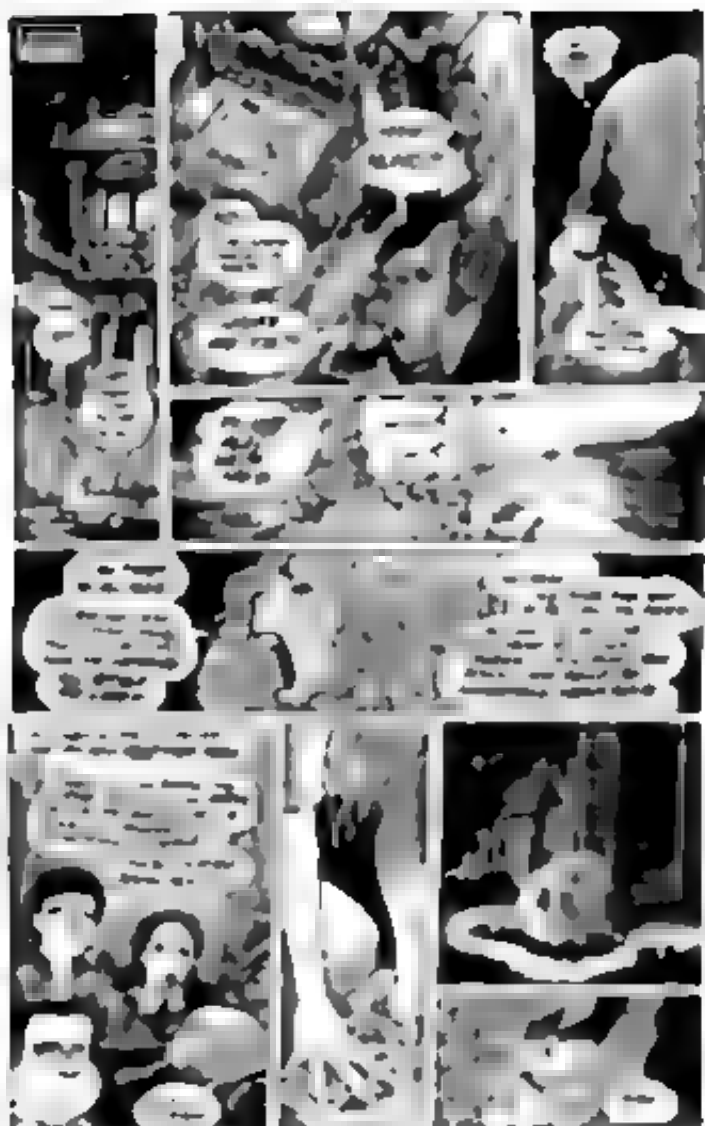


YOU'VE FAILED!
I MAY HAVE LEFT MY
VANGUARD BEHIND IN THE PAST
AGO BUT WHEN I'M ALONE
I AM NEVER THAT WEAK
TO BE THROWN TO THEM!

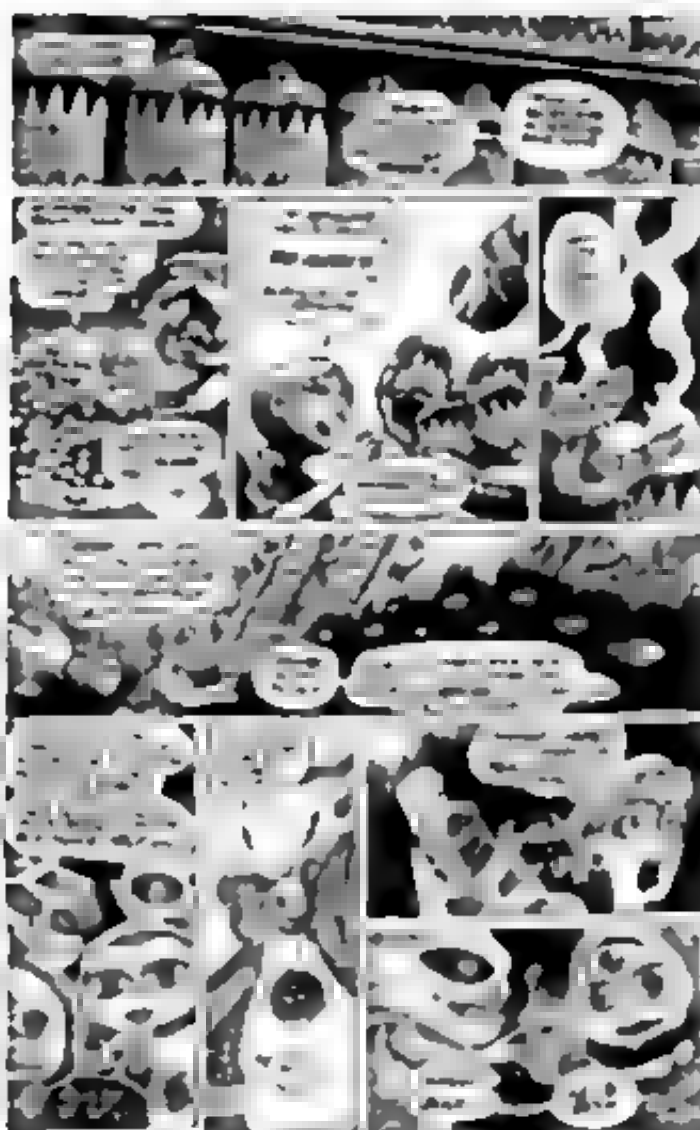
NON PASEN
PASEN IS INTEND TO
HANGA KUN SUKAS
THEY ARE THE REVERSE
I MEAN, ONCE AND
FOR ALL!

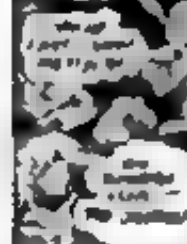
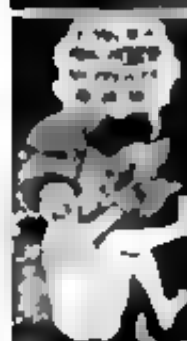


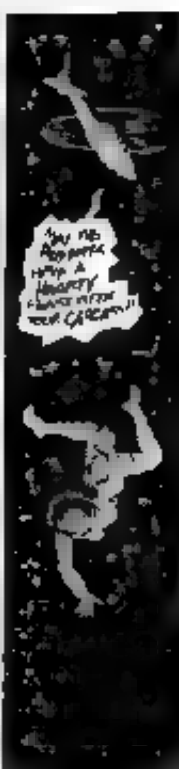












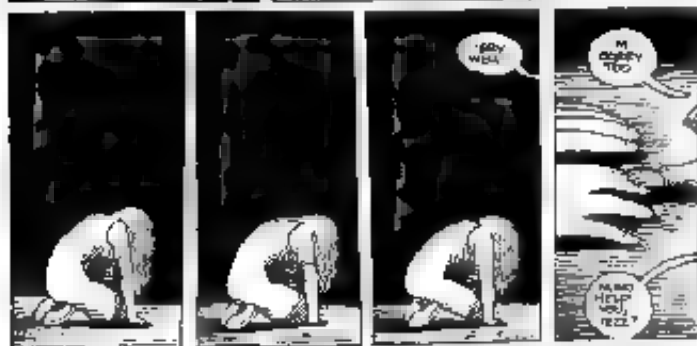








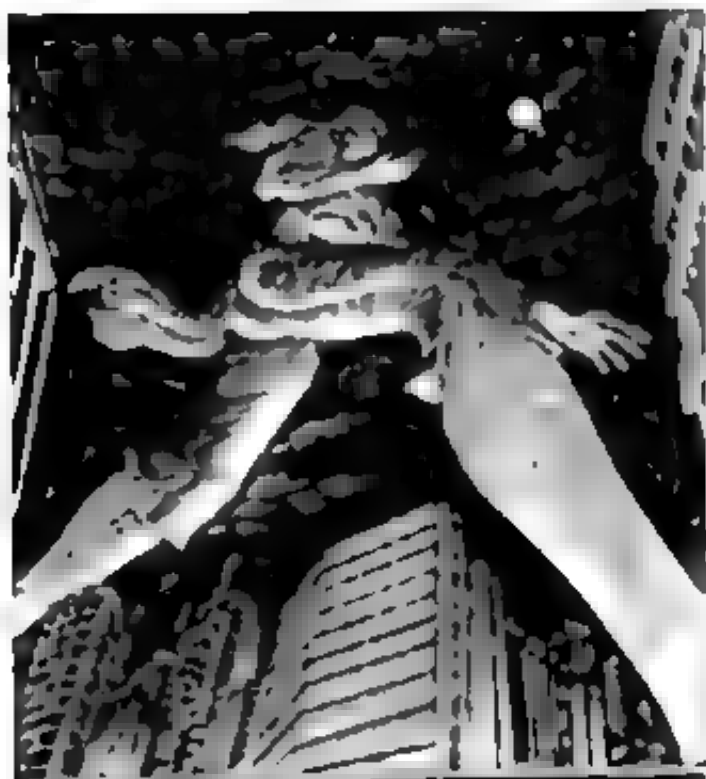




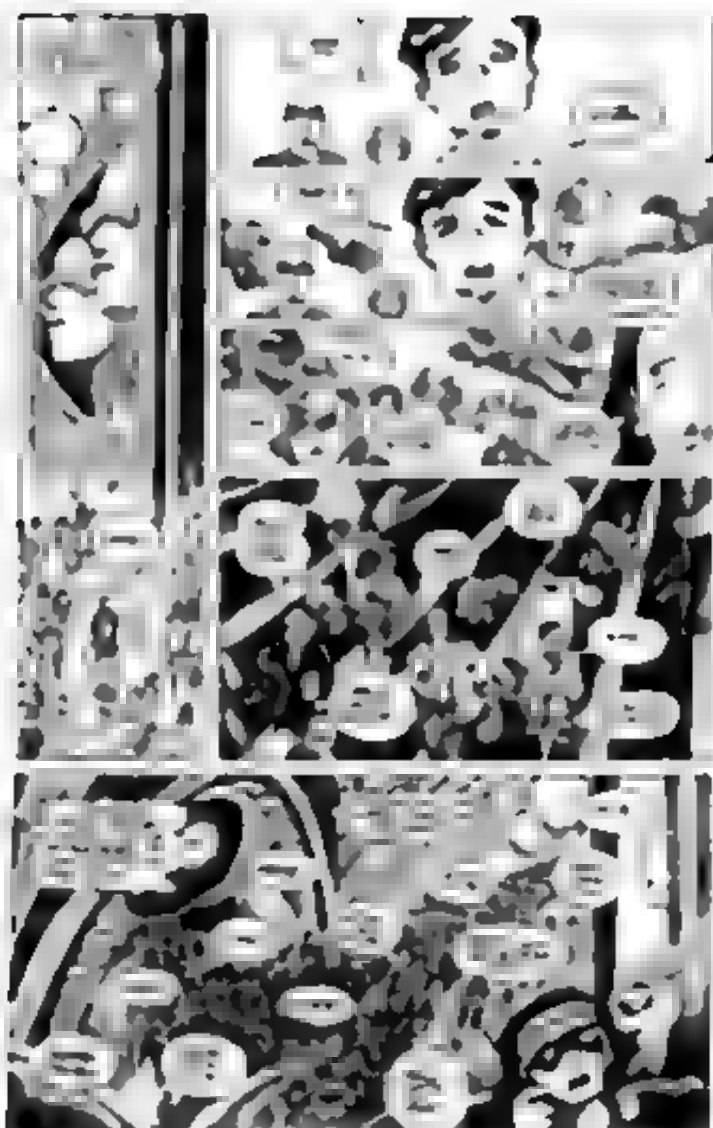


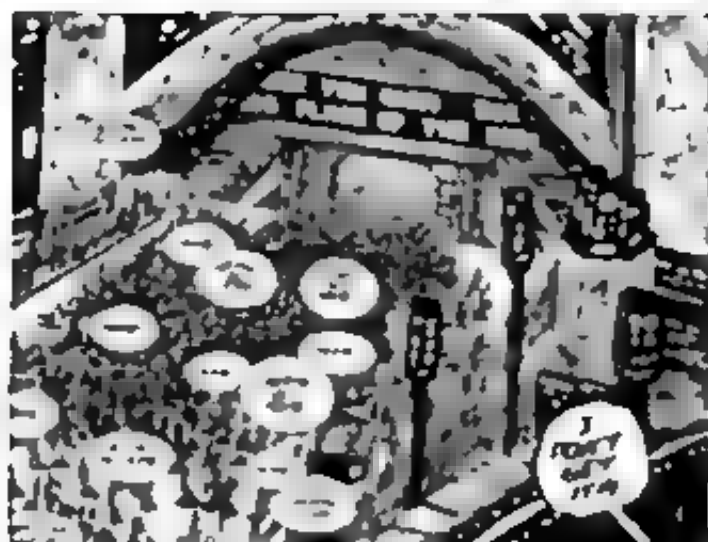


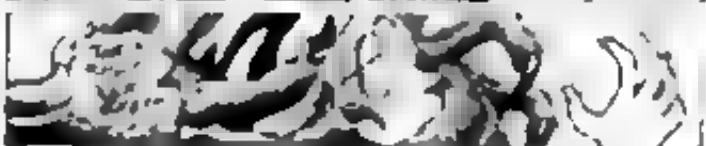
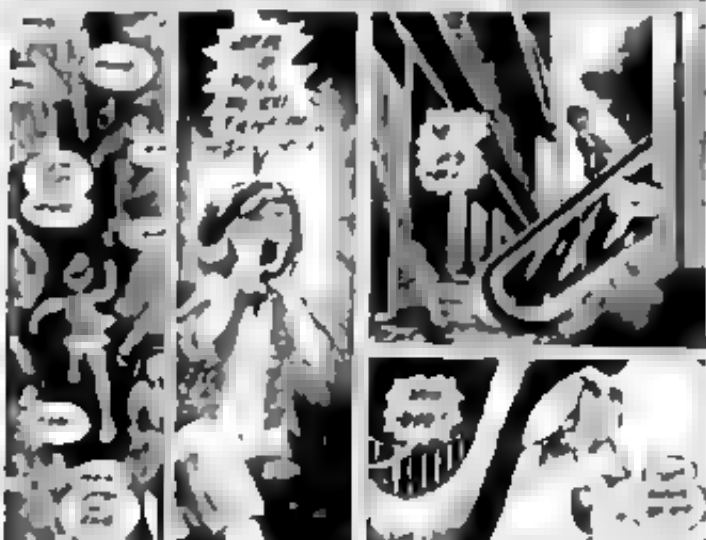
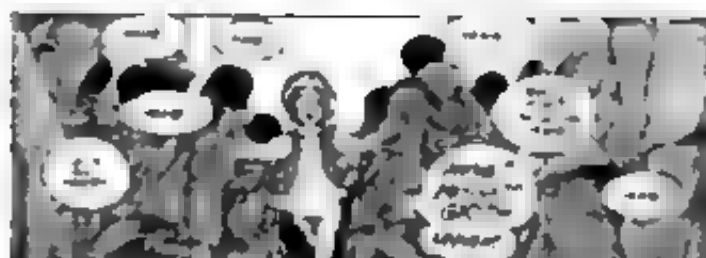


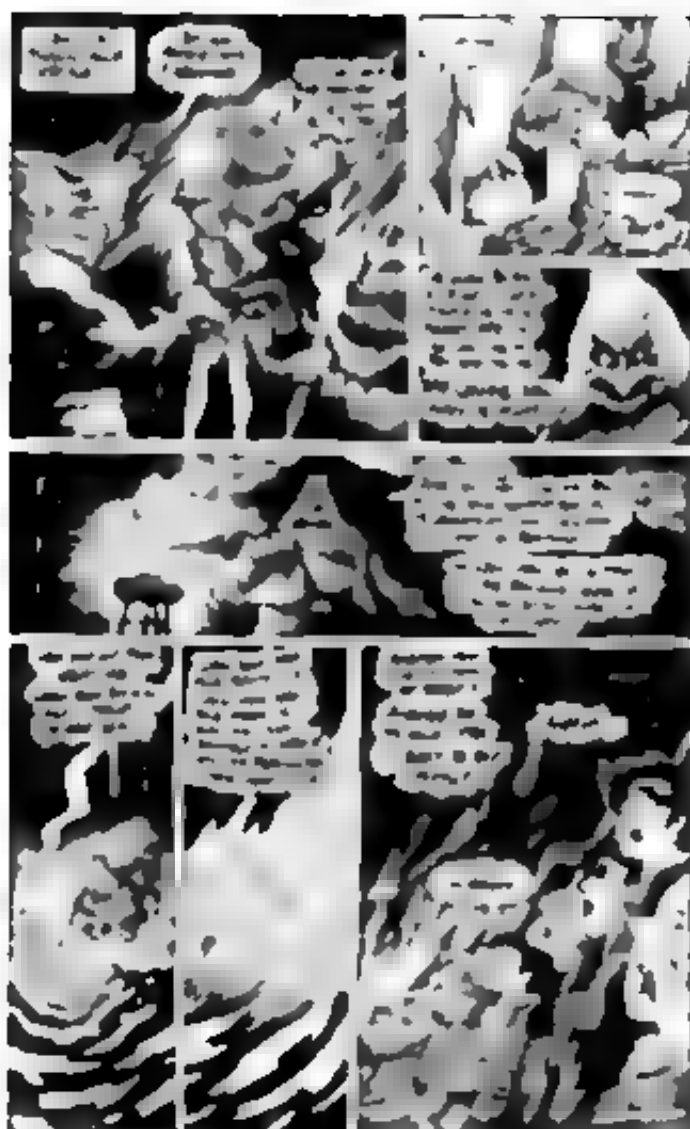






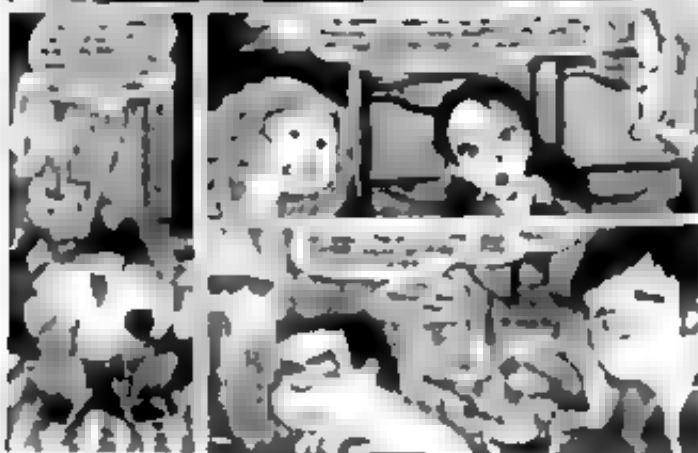


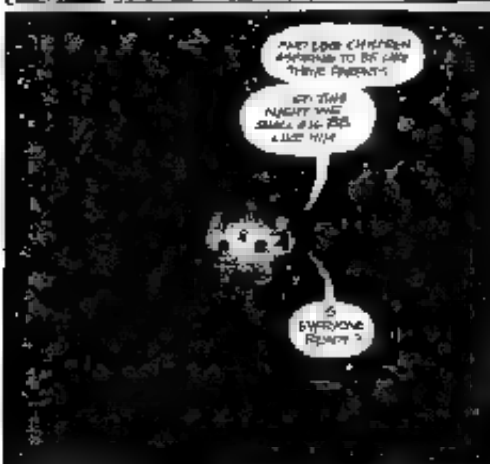


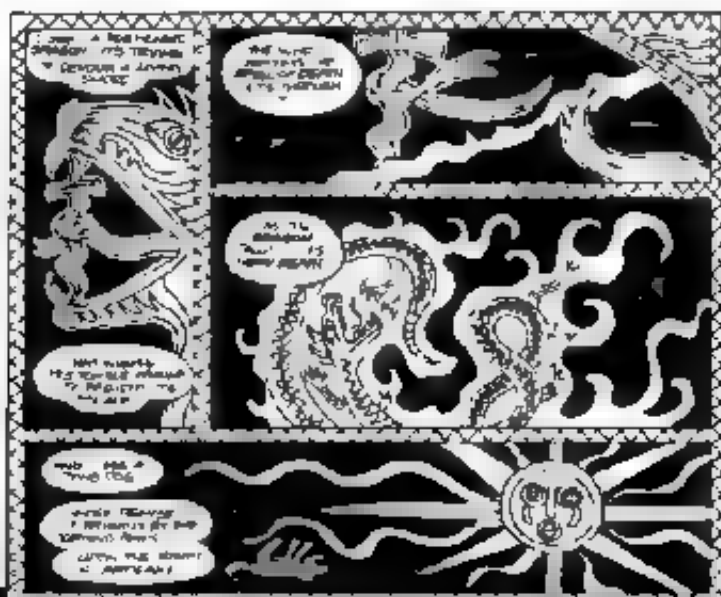










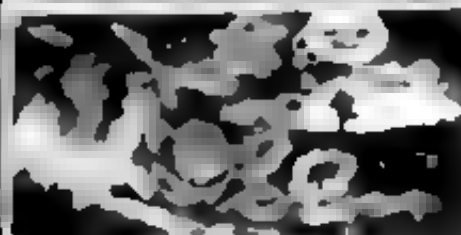
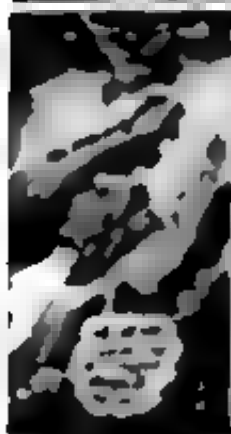
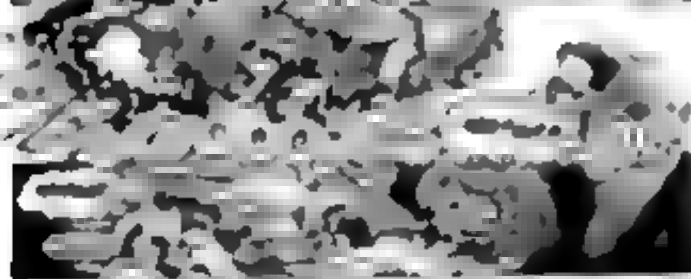
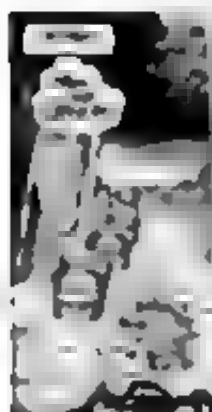






THE
BATHING GUEST
HOLD A VERY
TIGHT















WE MUST HAVE BEEN
ABOUT 10 MILES

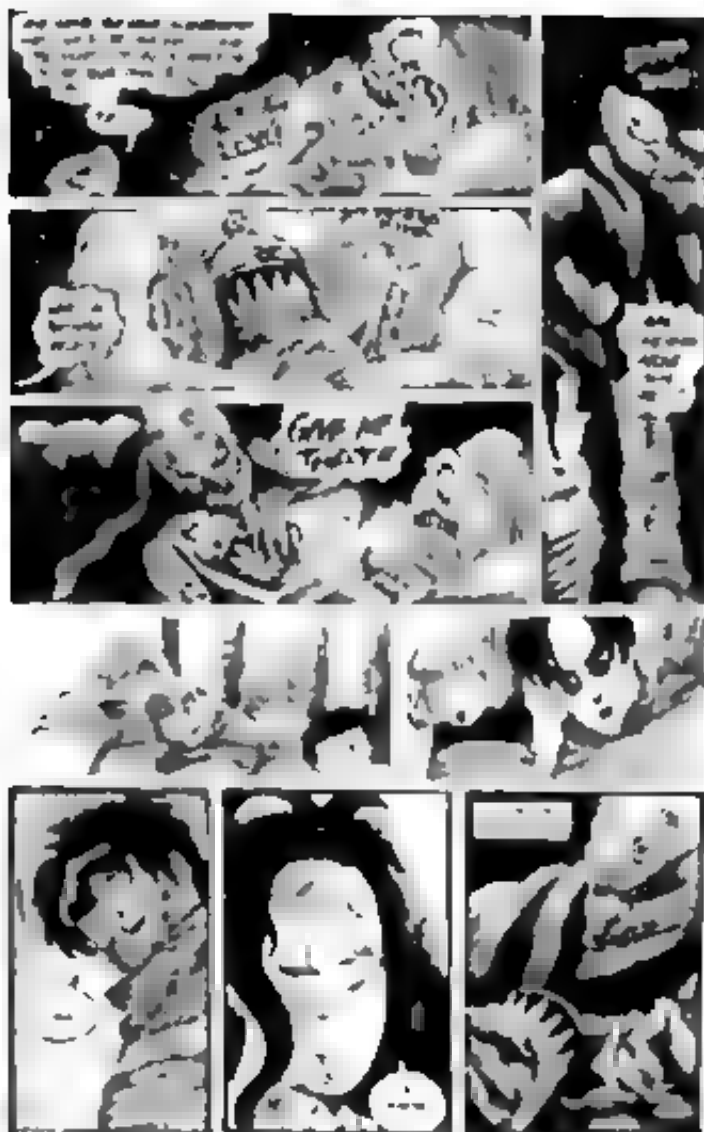


LET IT BE (WHEN SOMEONE
DREAMS) BUT RATHER
LET IT BEHOLD

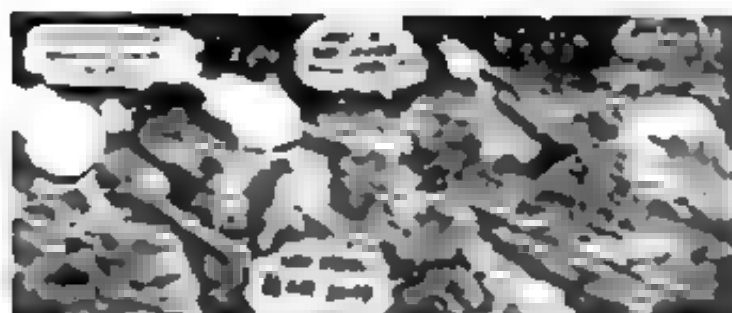


WE MAY REMEMBER
NOT AS THE
LOOSE VICTORY

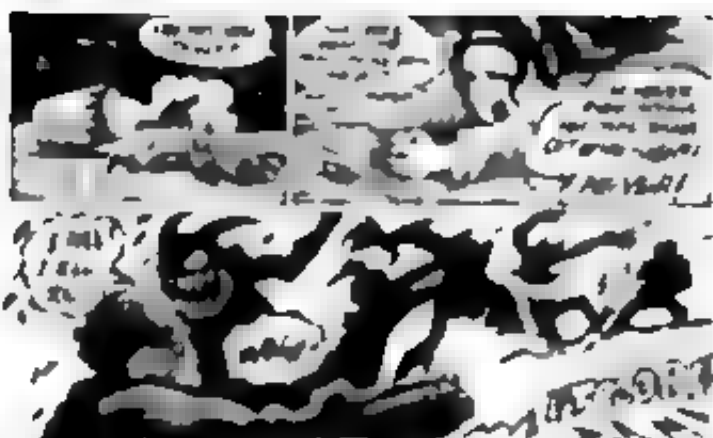


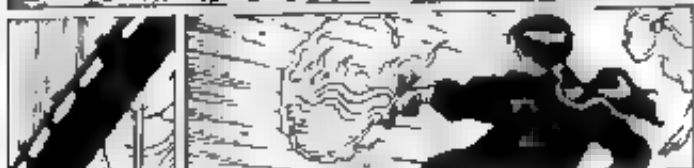


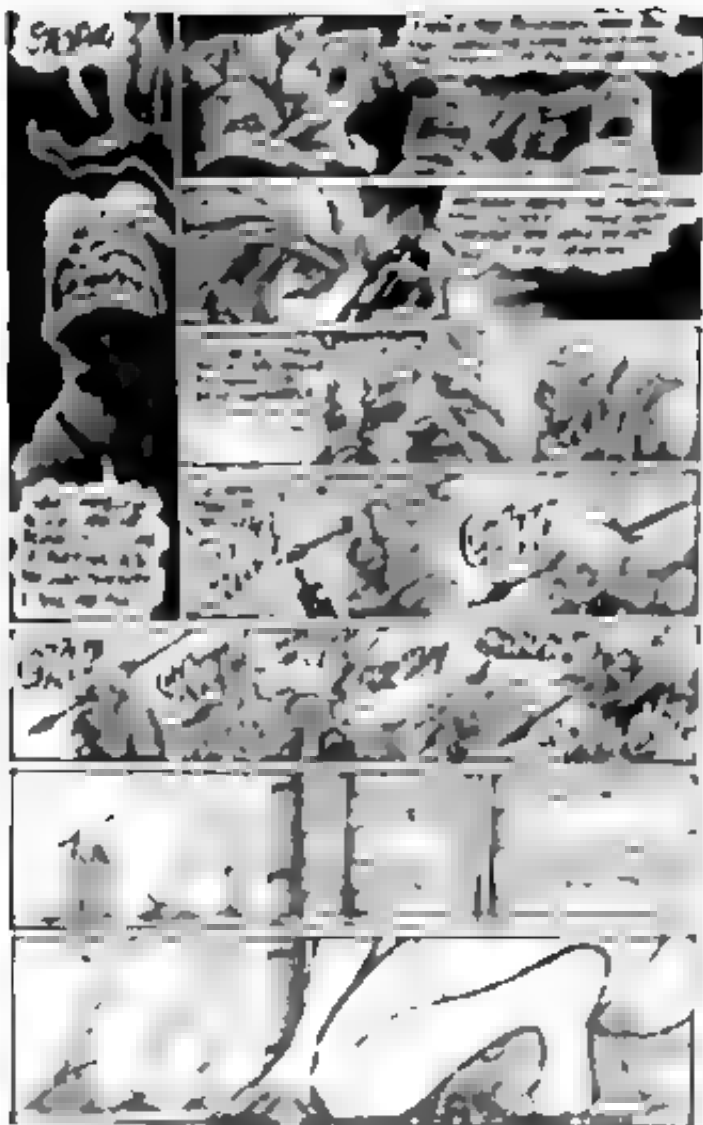






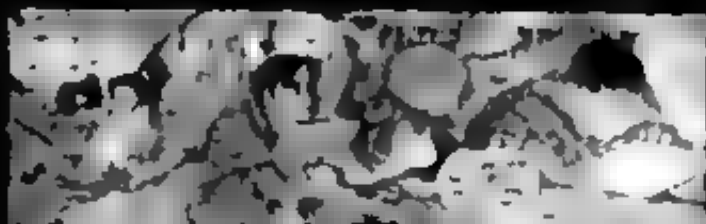




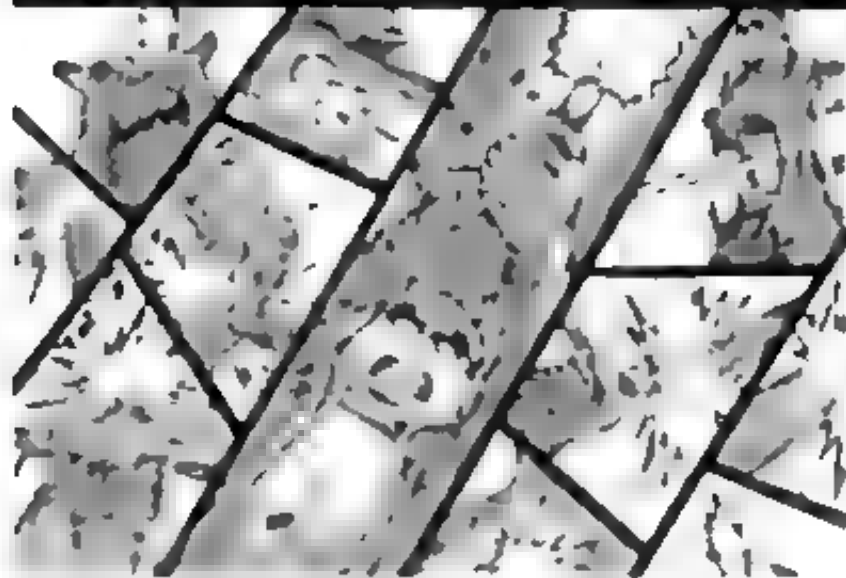
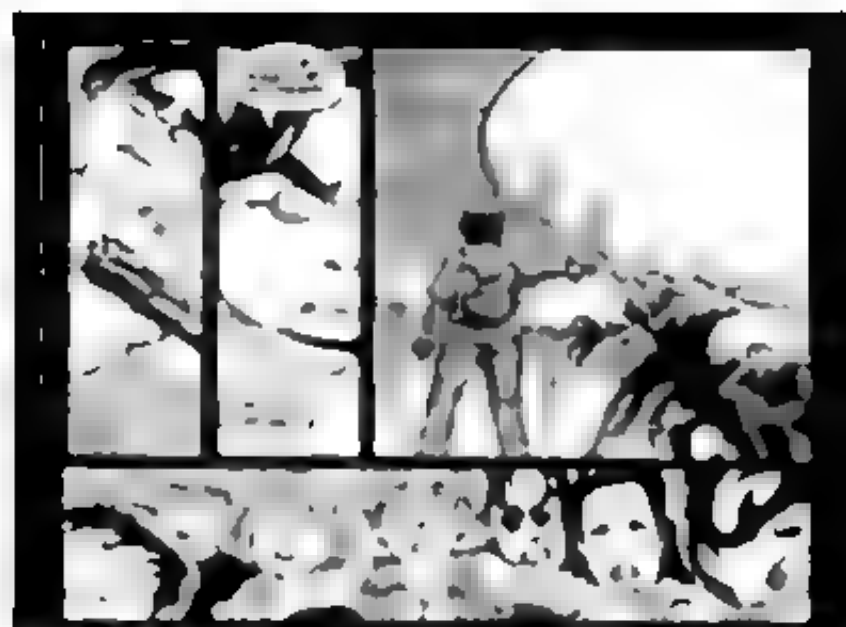


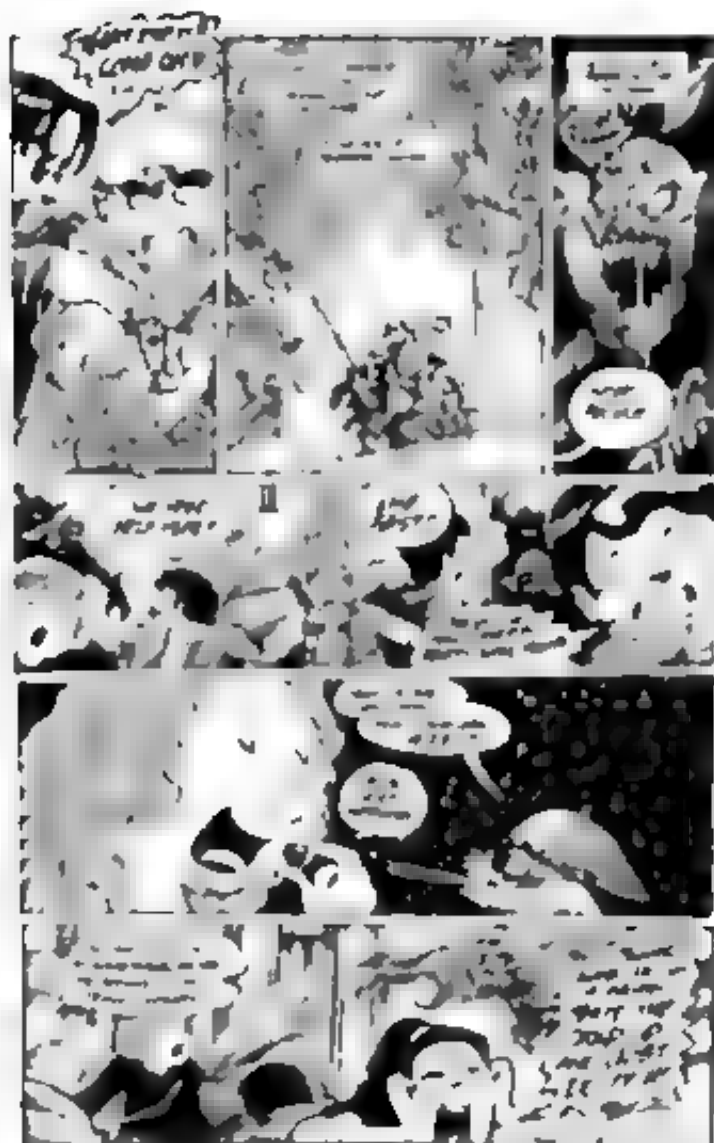














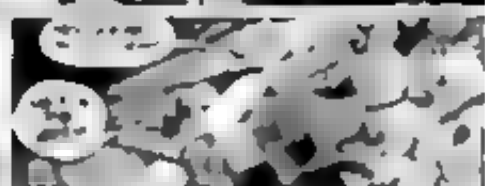
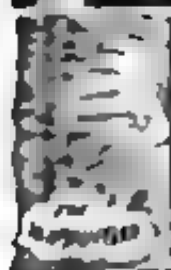


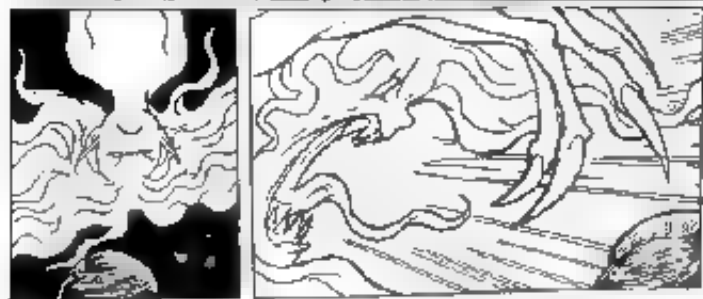
CRASH

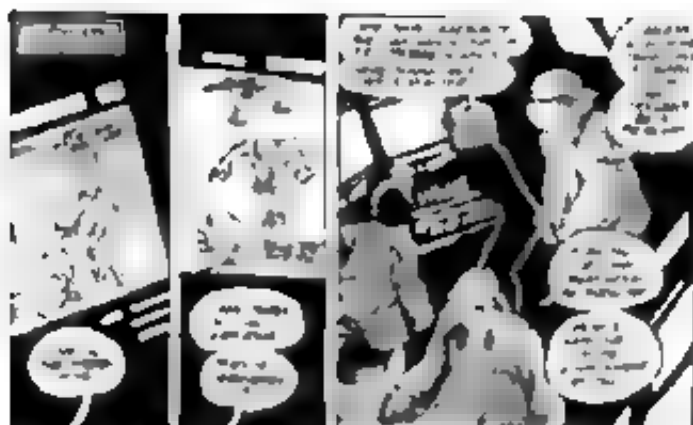
NO



HELP!!



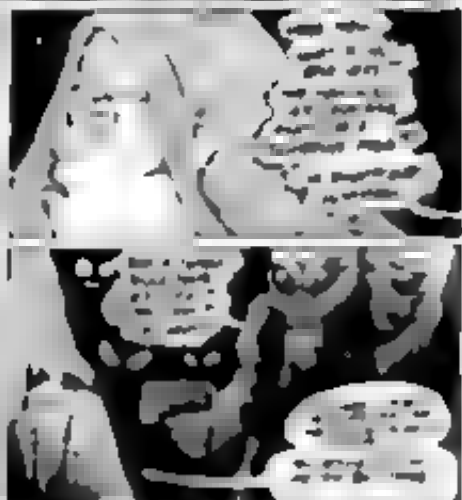




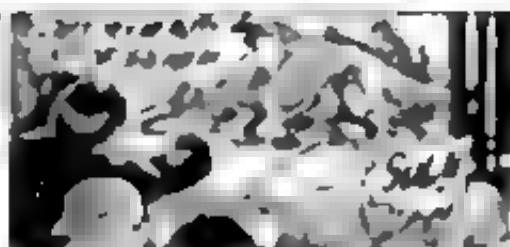


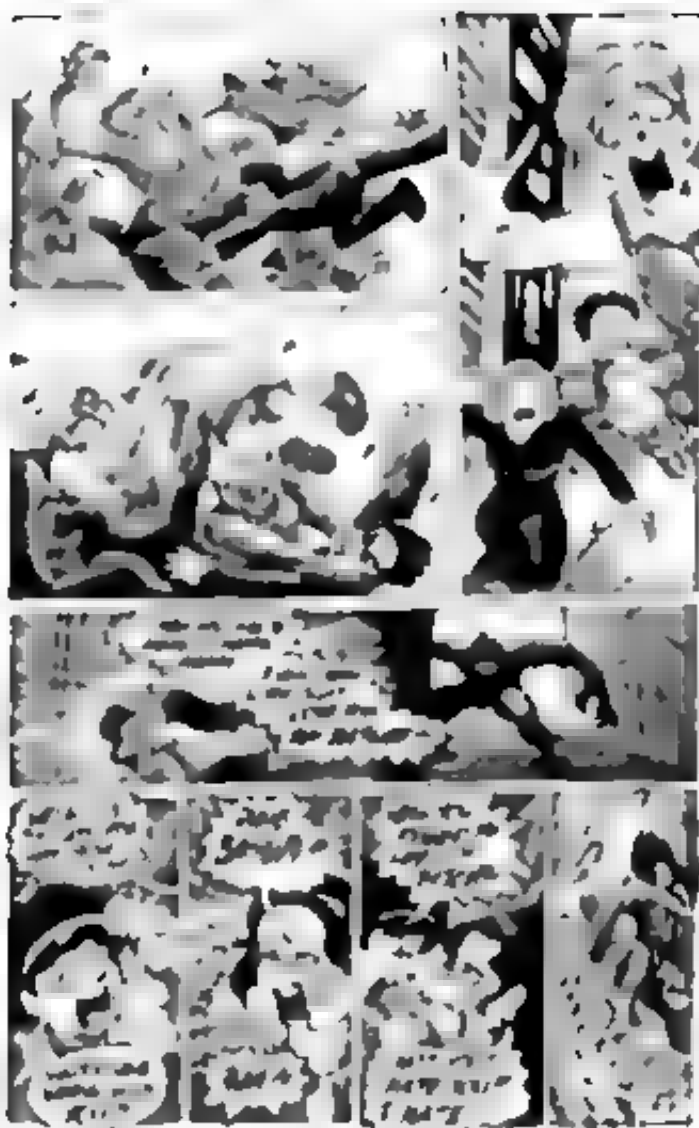




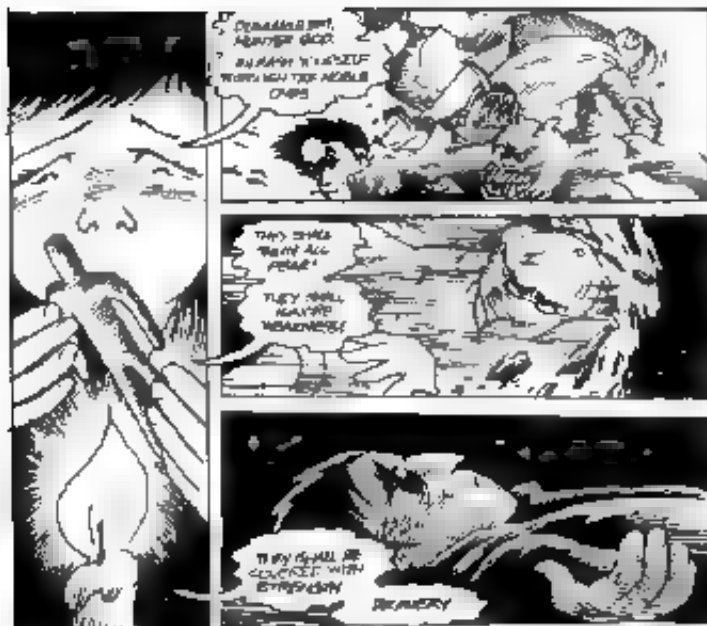


SUL!





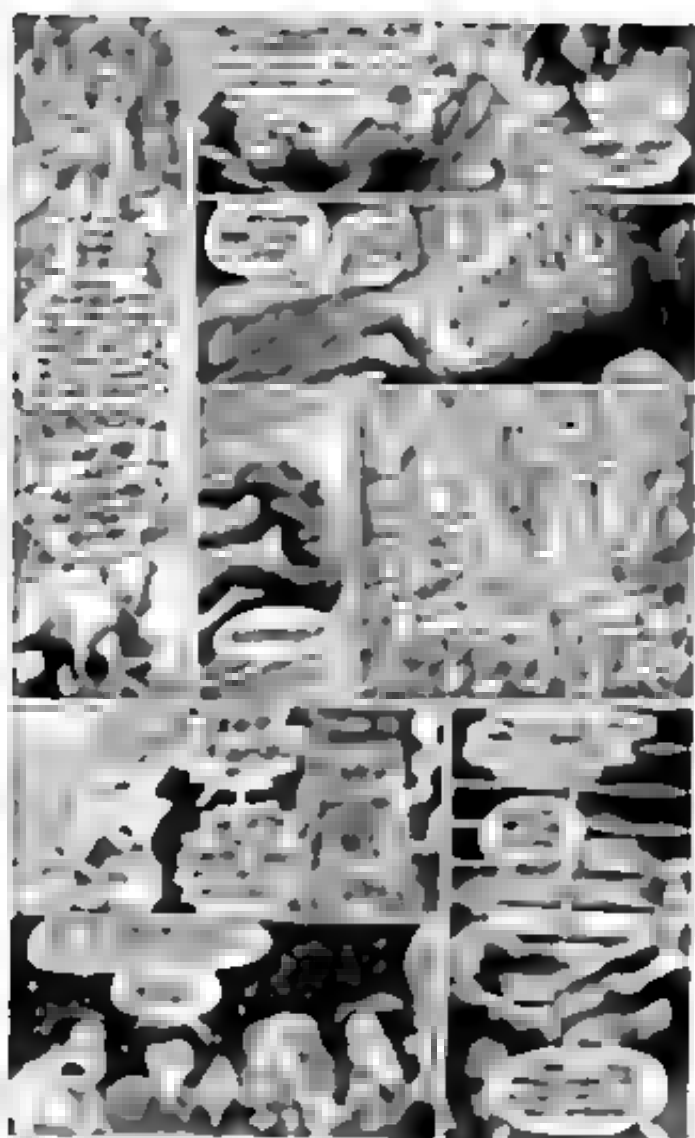






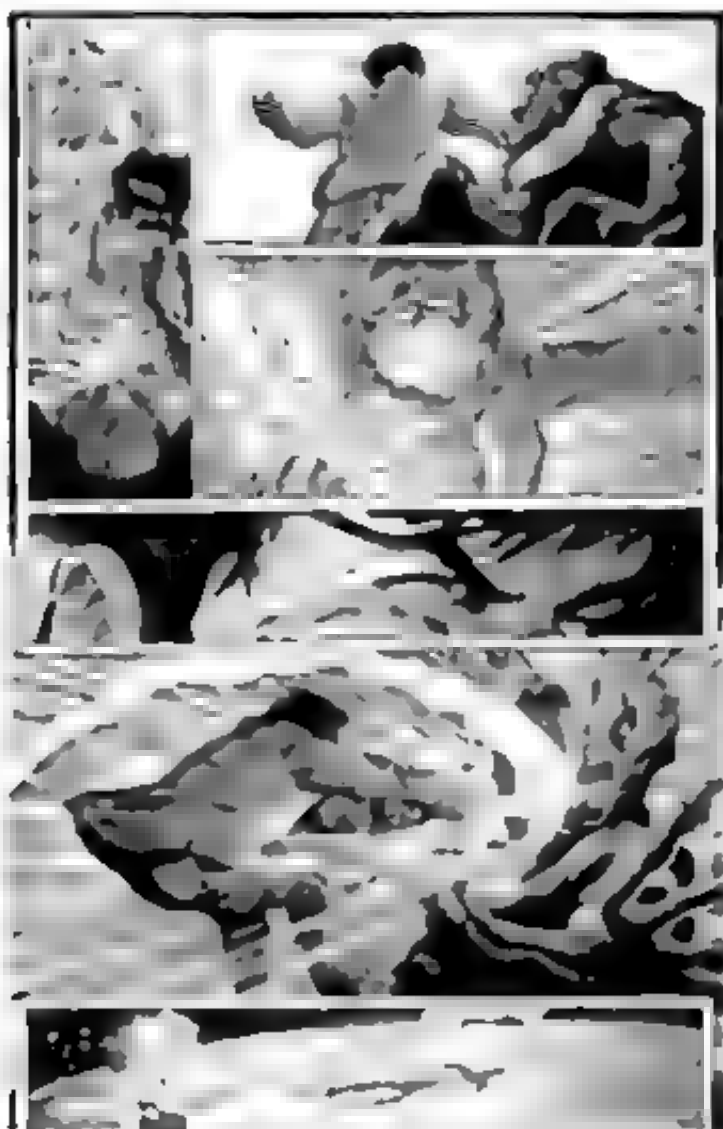
THEY ARE ALL DEAD



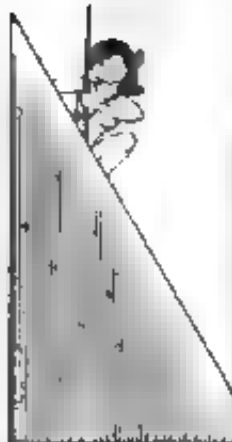
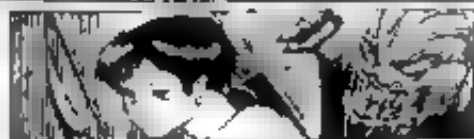
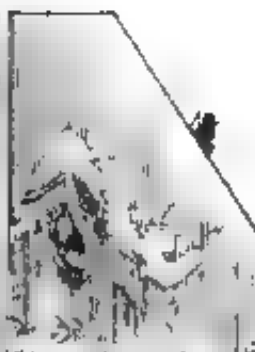


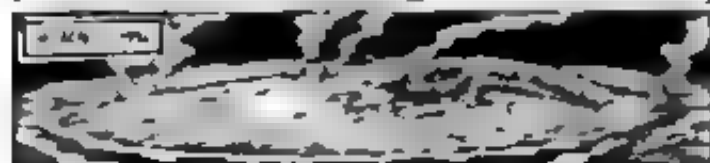






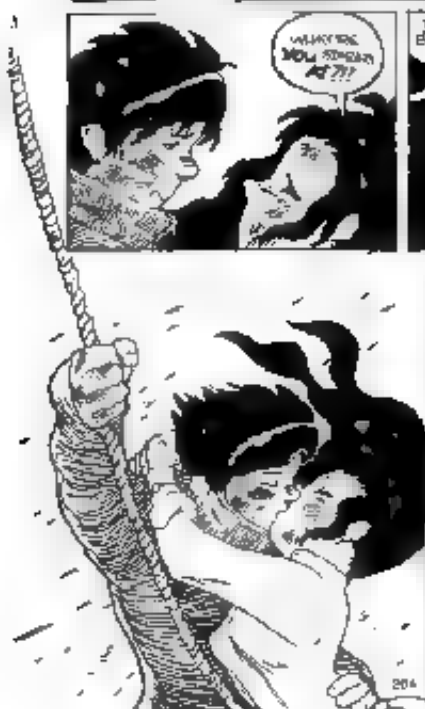


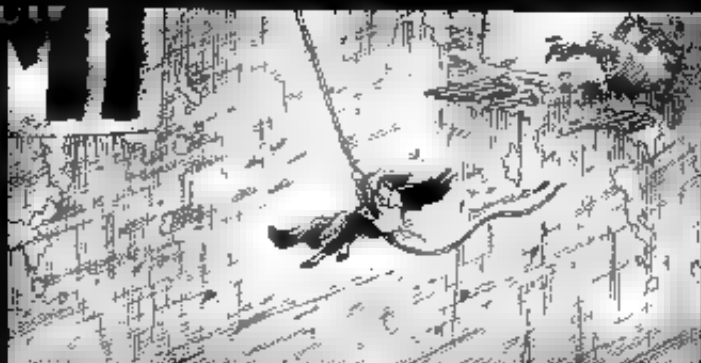


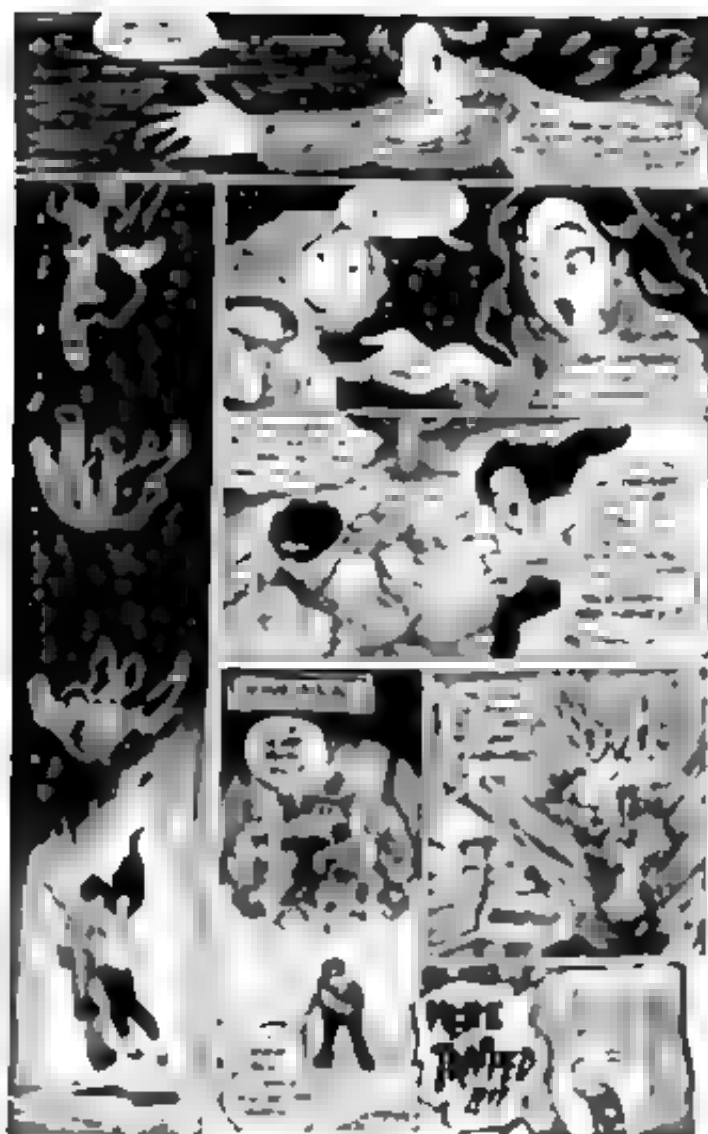


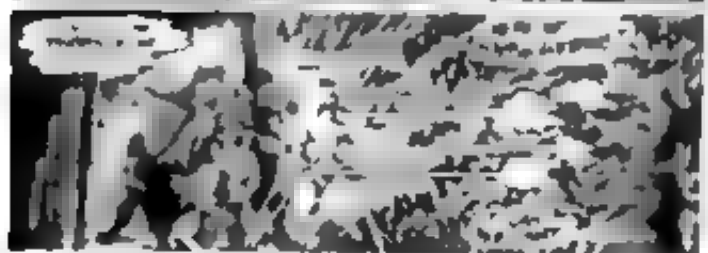
10 11 12

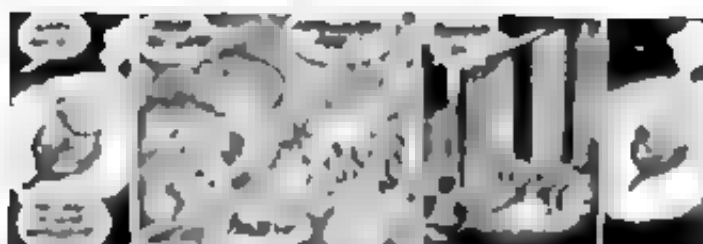


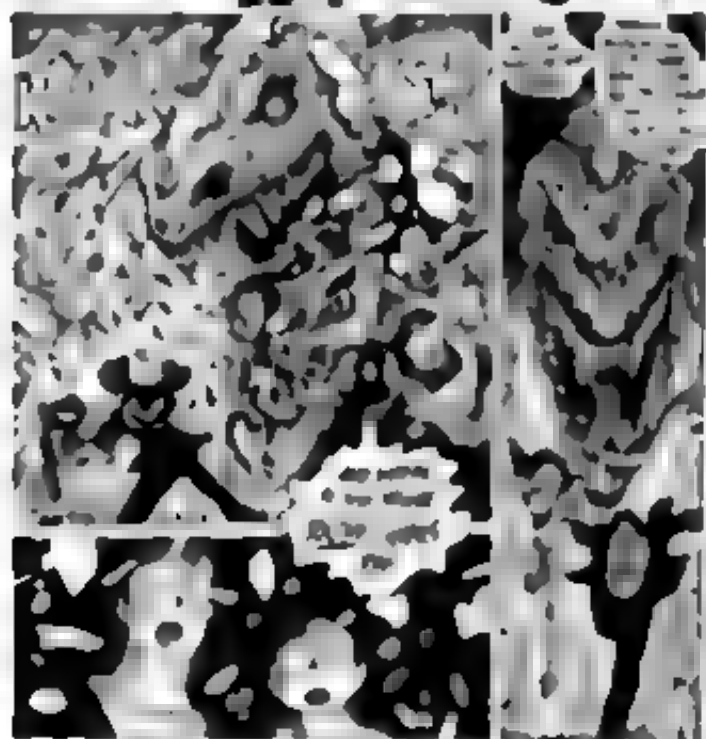


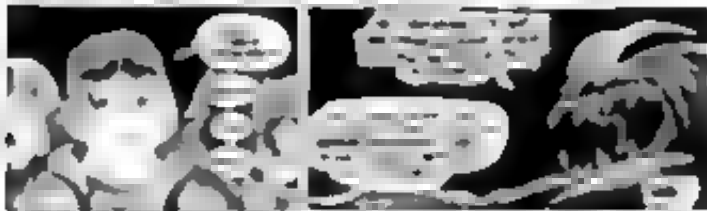


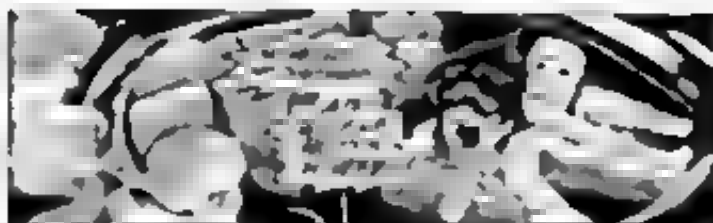




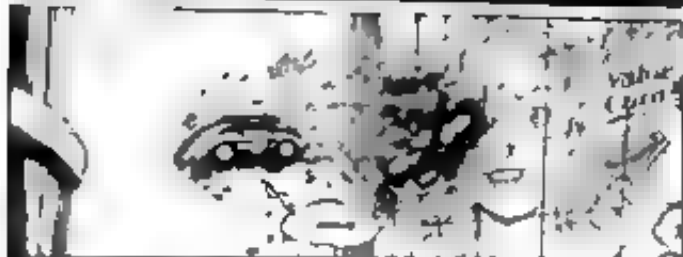
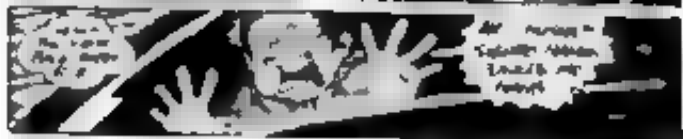


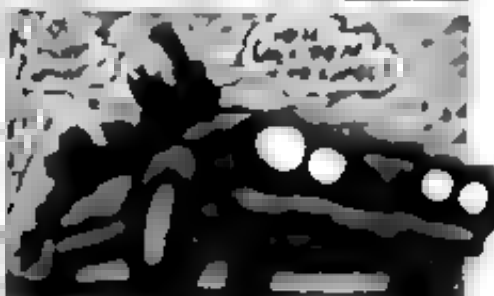
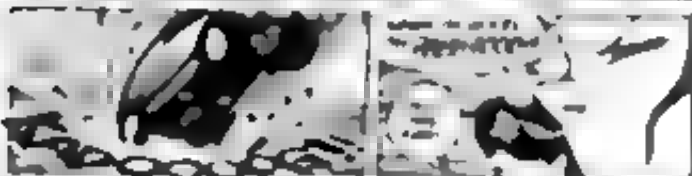
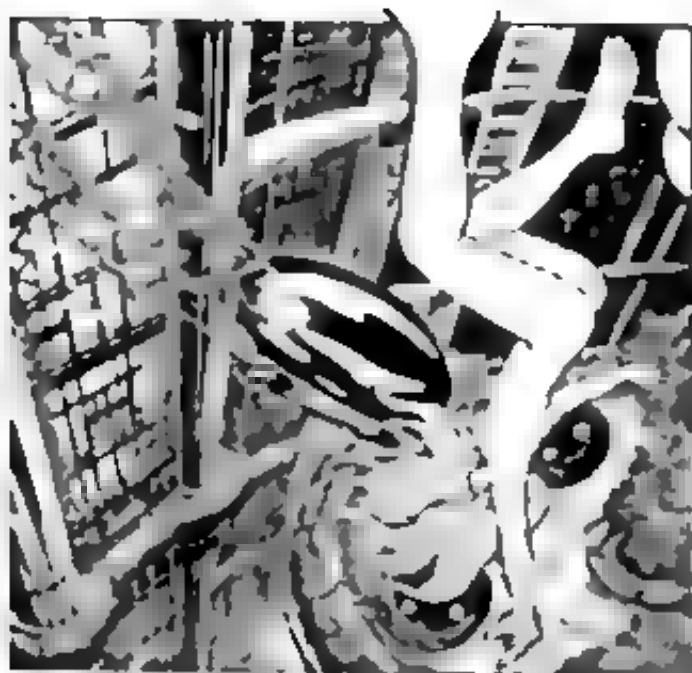


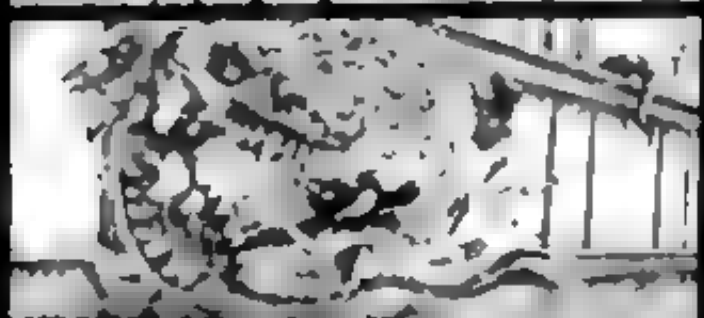
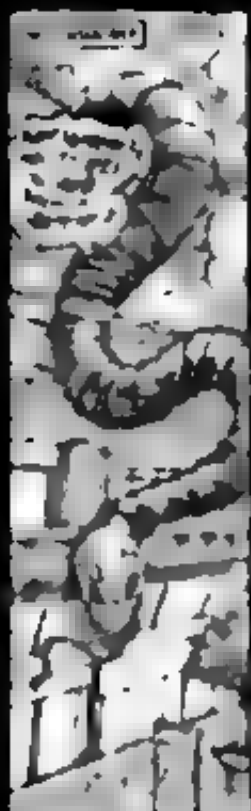
















IN THE
NAME OF...

...BETHALA'S...





FOR
CENTURIES
CONTINUES I
HAVE HAD
TO SPEND
MY LIFE AMONG
BEASTS
CHAMPION.

AND
TODAY...



IT IS
FINALLY
HAPPENING.

I SHALL
DEFEAT
YOUR
ARMY.

YOUR ARMY.

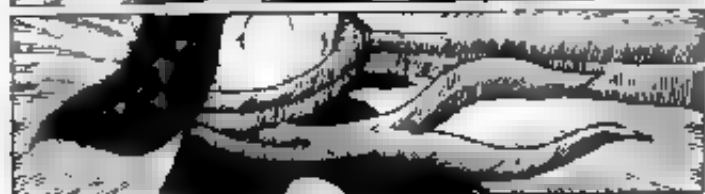
YOUR ARMY.

I SHALL CONQUER
THEM...

AND CONQUER
IN FOR ALL TIME.







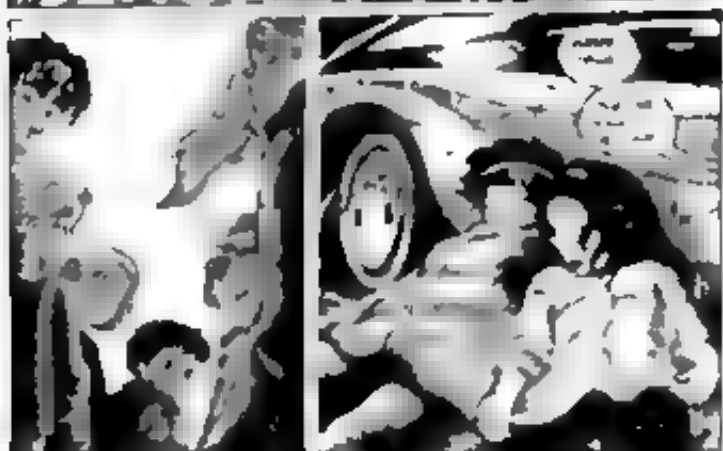
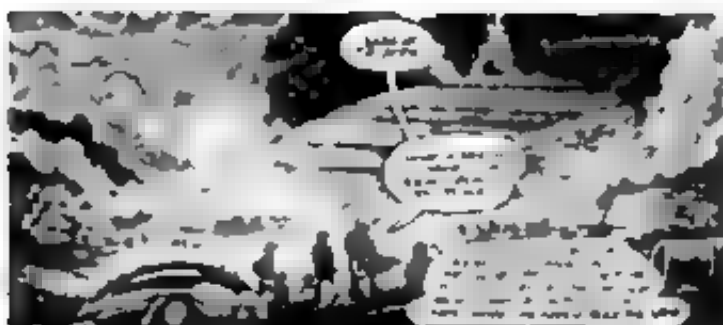


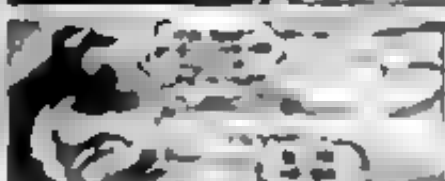
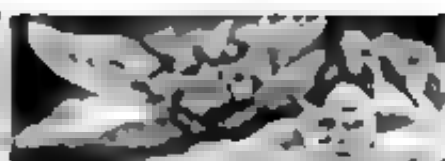


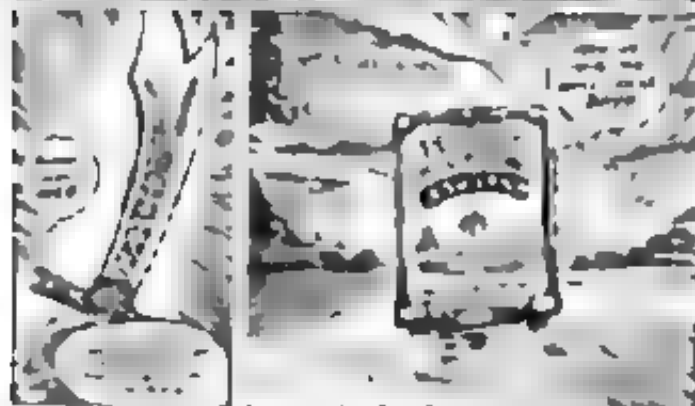






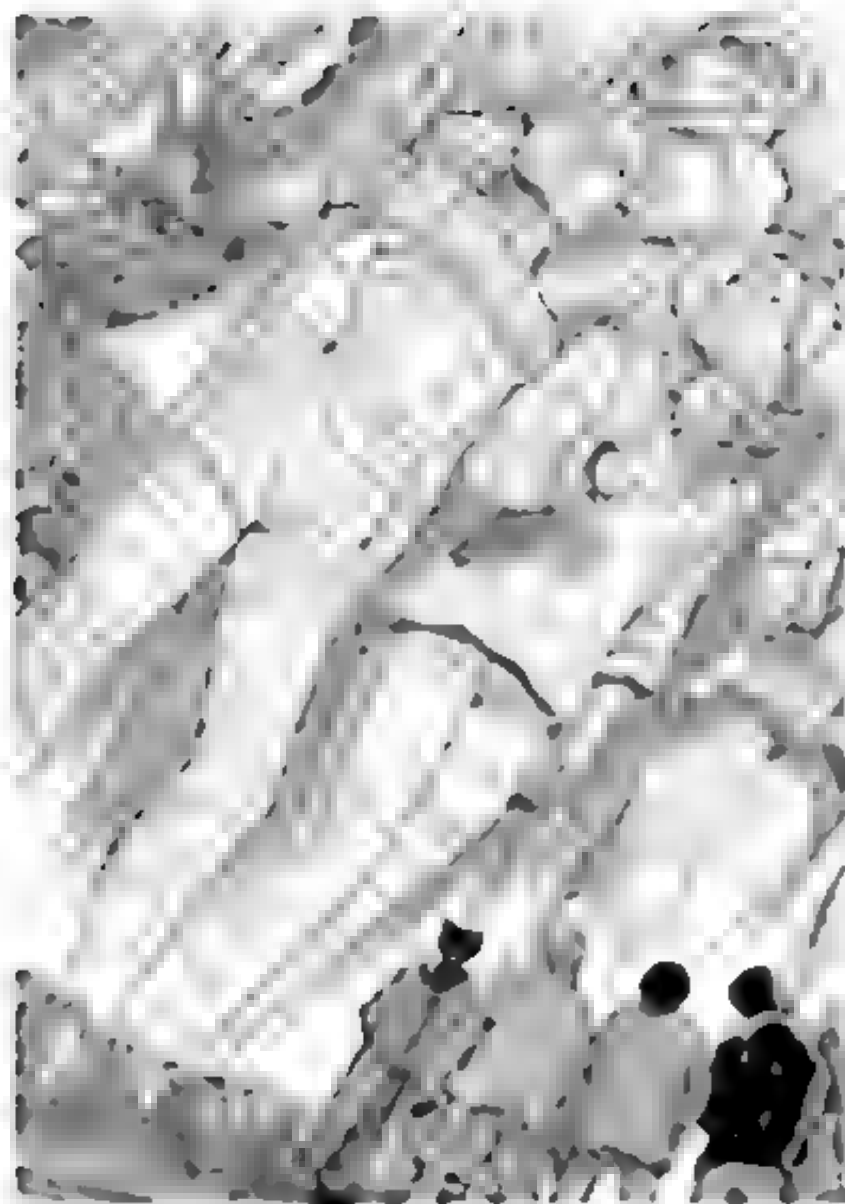




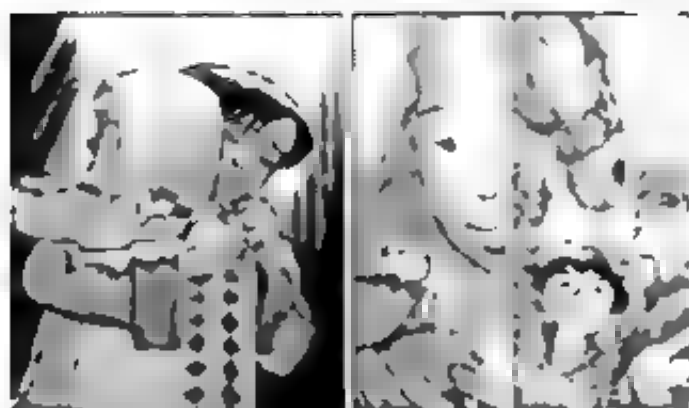




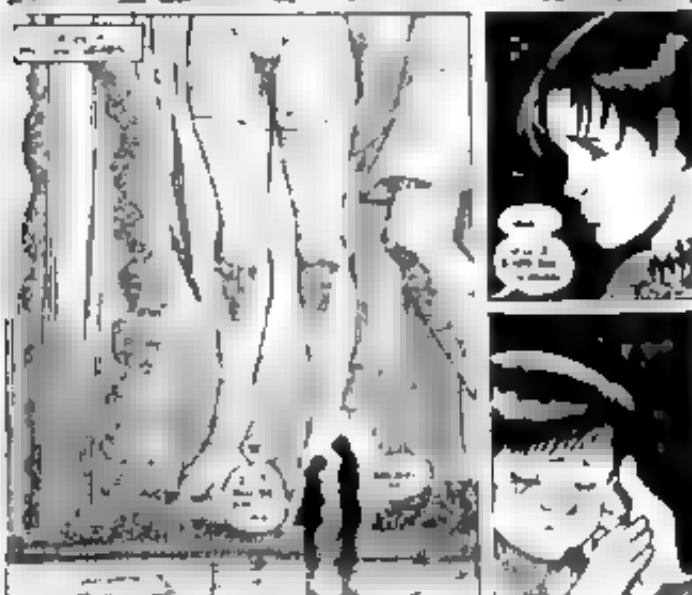
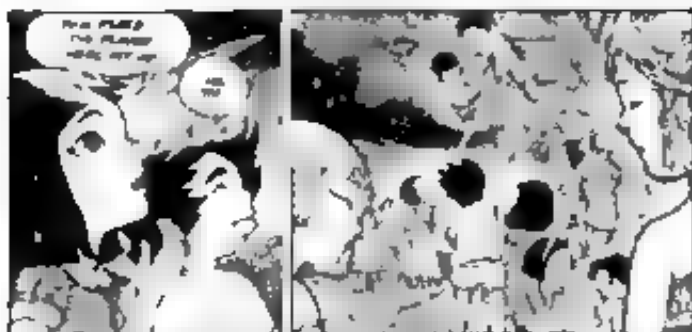


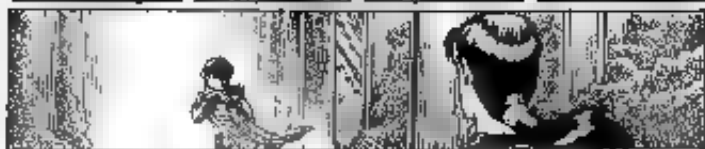


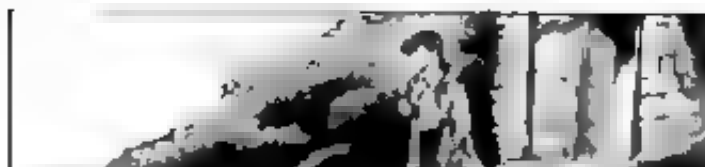








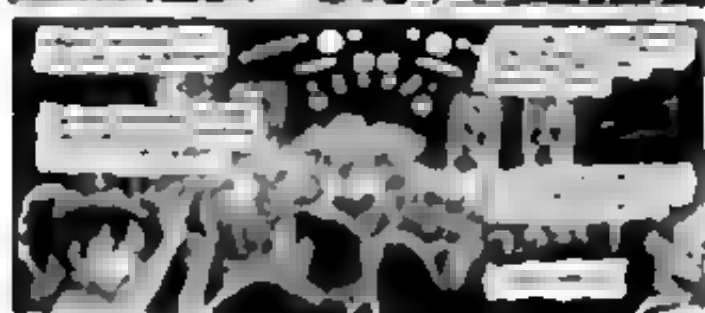
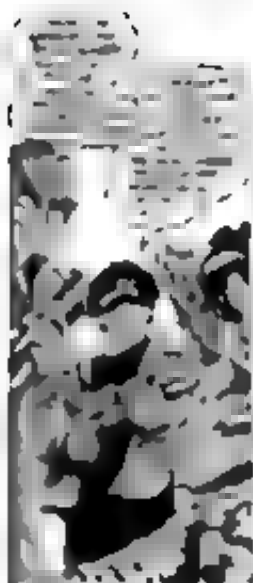






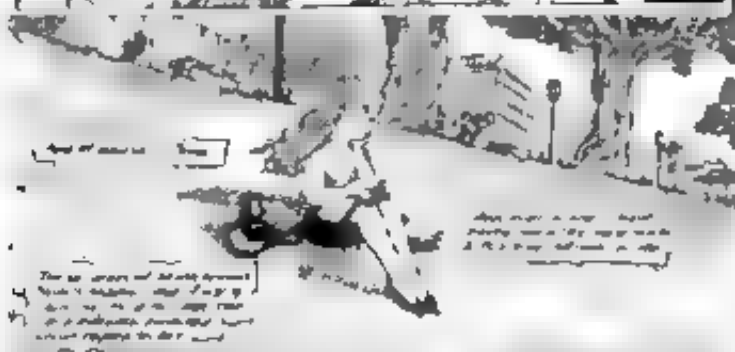
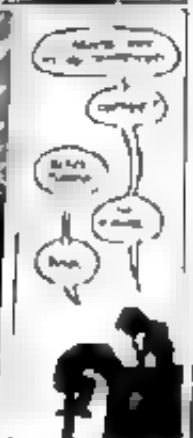


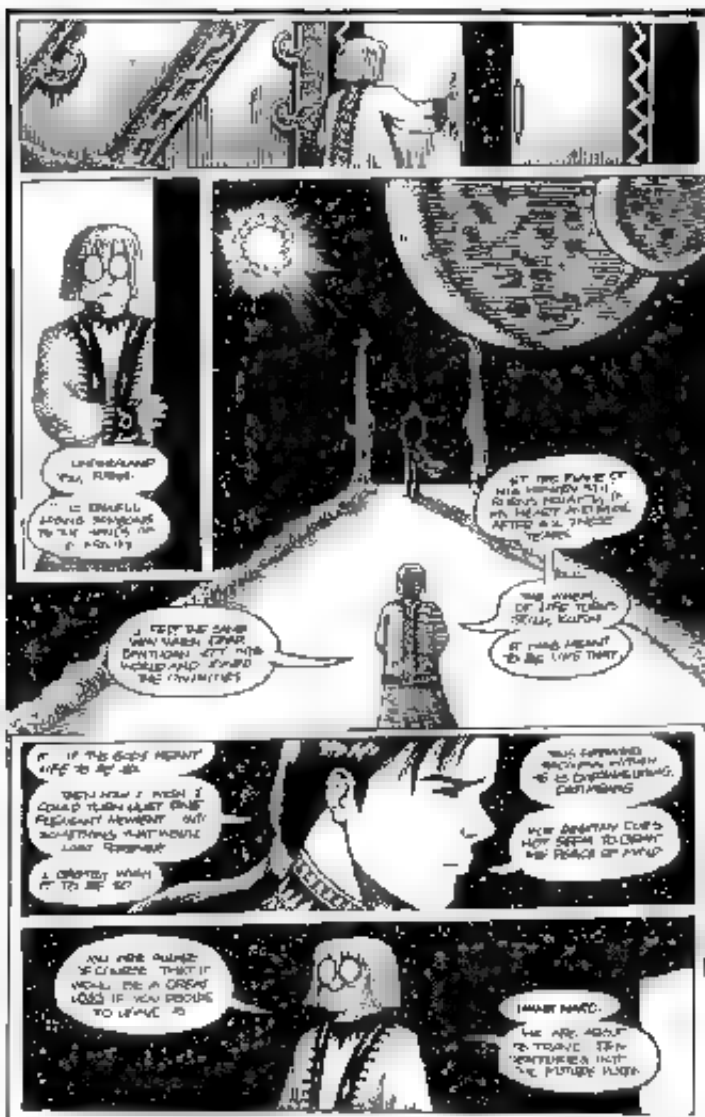


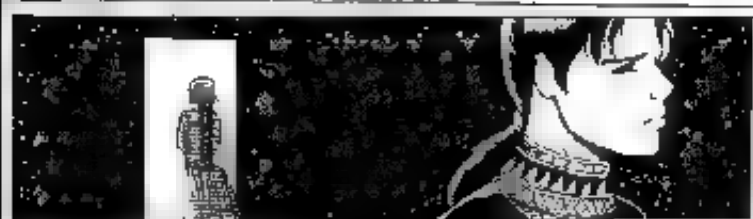








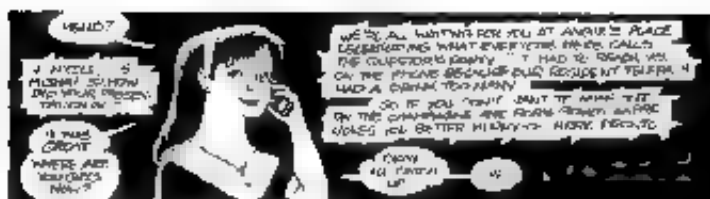




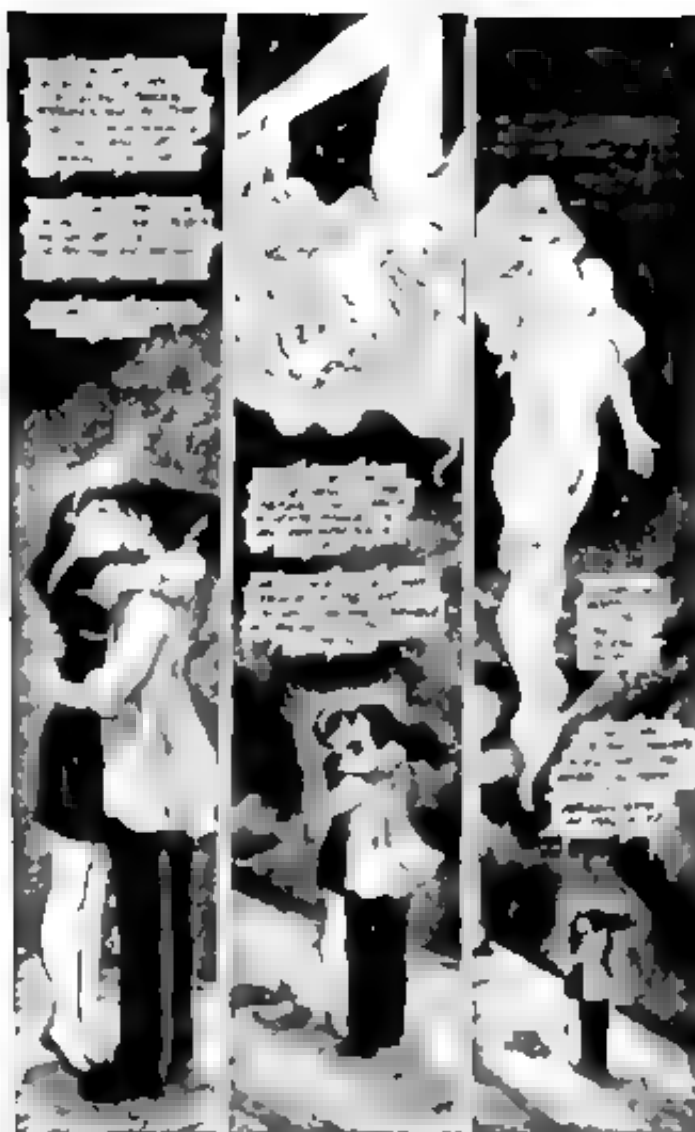








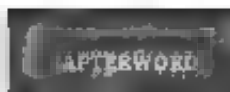










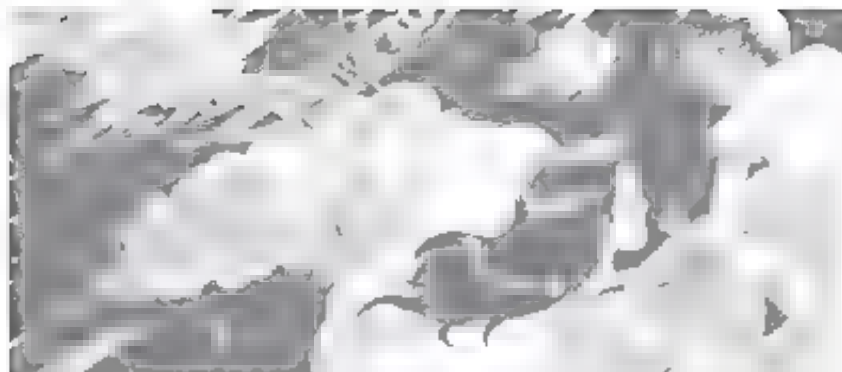


Since this is the afterword, you are probably on a pretty big high right now after just having finished reading—or re-reading, which wouldn't surprise me. The *Mythology Class*. For you see, a couple of us here Filipino nerds is that you have either never felt inspired or has waned over the years. That's the magic of the comic—aside from Arnold who has halted us like he mythology references, his wonderful graphic novel replaces the sense of dread our vast and mysterious world often entails with a feeling of wonder and awe. No comic that, like the best myths, it also inspired people to be better, to strive to do more, to believe that the unknown and the mysterious can not only be overcome but harnessed for the benefit of all.

I think that it is no coincidence that many of the successful Philippine independent comics are of the Philippine mythology. It further goes like one of the new American comics have incorporated the dominant genre with other genres being fused—it is quite a trend in the market—believe that *The Mythology Class*, when it was first released at the start of the millennium is the comic that inspired most of the major local comic creators today and opened the eyes of Philippine comic readers to the possibilities of Philippine mythology as a modern storytelling genre. This was the book that made many young aspiring artists and writers bark in the day go, "Whoa! I wanna make comics as awesome as this!"

And yet, while he may have influenced a new generation of comic creators in a country that's known for its work as a comic artistry for generations, in other comic creator countries there is much more to his old superhero skill set. As a hero, the way Arnold is a legendary hero himself, especially to comic creators and fans. I have personally seen how humbly serene is at drawing. He completed one of his 30-page graphic novels in just around three months. Another time, he drew a full issue by himself, but he had to ask a team of three artists to do the same. And yet, even with his speed, the purity of his work is unparalleled. The graphic is an artwork when they need to be repeating and would expect minimal when called for to even have ups and downs facial expressions. We flow with emotion to help a few strokes out. It is clear that no stroke is ever wasted with Arnold and every one serves the purpose of telling the story. As a writer, he has the same discipline as he is job to balance epic plotting and sweeping action with the proper natural sounding dialogue that leaves out characters with a plot to him. This is why Arnold serves as a shining example of what all comic artists, both local and foreign, should strive to do.





"The Mythology Class was the first local comic I read after college. It was the comic that triggered my faith in the local comics industry and made me believe that we could make great comics in the Philippines. So yes, "was one of those" "I wanna make comics as awesome as Christ" people."

I was lucky enough to meet Arnold in 2005 when we happened to be the only Filipinos at a Korean Comics convention. I was already a fan, but soon we became friends. Shortly after, we became collaborators, and now I am also his publisher. But the reason I am all these things is because I was a fan first and still am. The reason I want to publish Arnold's works is because I personally just want Arnold to keep making comics and I want as many people as possible to read his works. That's what we do for legendary heroes, isn't it? We spread the word to make their legend grow. And if a publisher can be able to spread his particular legend far and wide.

The Mythology Class has shown us that epic stories are not only there to inspire us. It's also true that they are serving living, we can participate in and introduce in. Legendary heroes are not only pillars of our culture, models we learn from, but mentors and guides who continue to work with new blood as their stories continue. So, hope reading The Mythology Class has inspired you to either read more local comics, especially more of Arnold's stuff, and I'm not just saying that because of his publisher or to try to create comics of your own down the line. And remember that you do take up the torch for the kampulan if you will, just like Kuda and her friends did. Continue the legacy of the legendary heroes. Arnold will be right here with us, guiding us and continuing to push boundaries, just as Kuda and Sulayman and the other heroes of old did for the class.

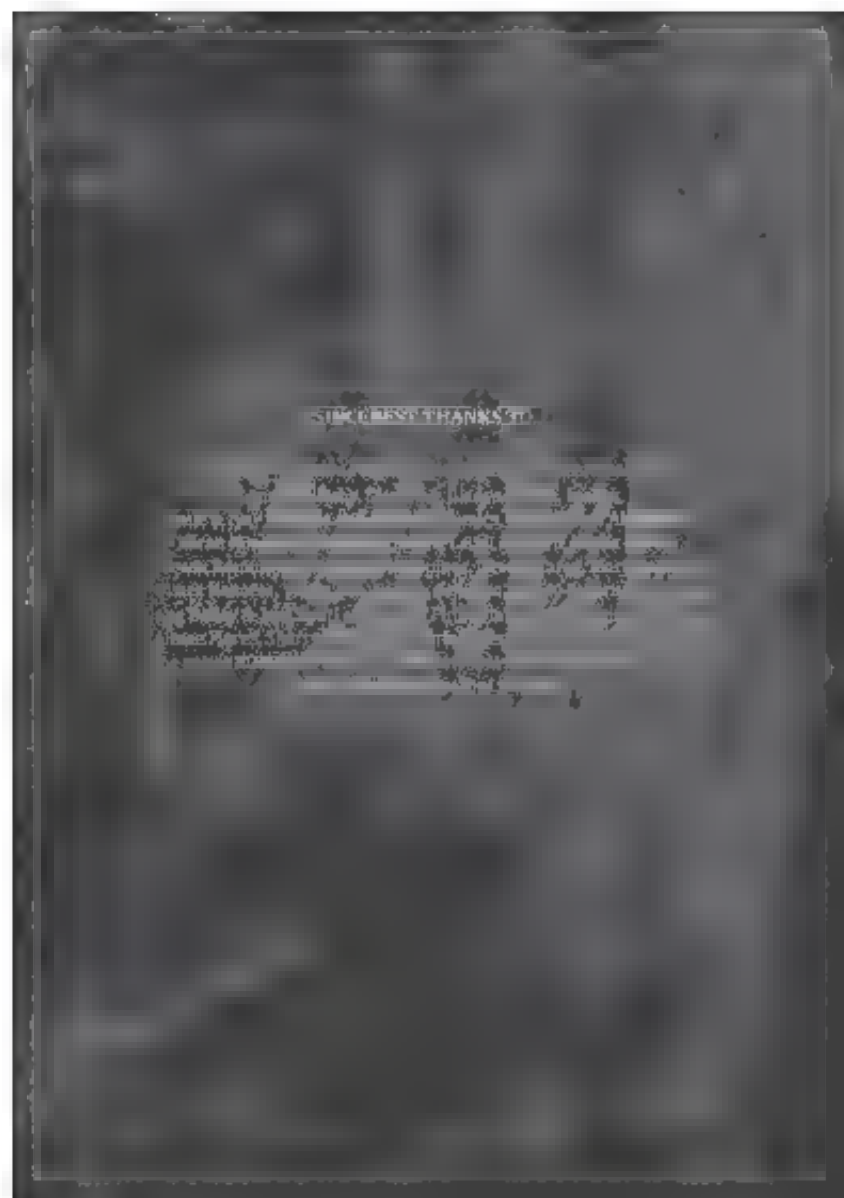
So are you ready to be part of this ongoing legend? I know I am,

JAMIE BALTISTA

aka: Kuda, Kuda, Kuda

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Arnold Arre lives in Quezon City with his wife Cynthia, and their pre-teen son Carl. He's been drawing & writing comics for more than 20 years and is also currently honing his skills as an animator.

Visit www.arnold-arre.com

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ARNOLD ARKE was the inaugural graphic novel Philippine National Book Award in 2000 for *The Mythology Class*. He is the author and illustrator of many other popular works also, including *Halina Filipina*, *Martial Arts Babes*, *After Eden*, *Ang Manda ni Asiong*, *Agimat*, *Trip to Tagaytay* and the *Children of Bathala* series.



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